

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH



SELECTIONS

FROM THE

NAGPUR RESIDENCY RECORDS

VOLUME II
(1807—1811)

By

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INTRODUCTION

The Second Volume of Selections from Nagpur Residency Records covers the period from 1807 to 1811, and falls under the following heads —

- (1) Nagpur Residency and Bhonsla's Affairs
- (2) Sambalpur Affairs.
- (3) Pindaries
- (4) Nizam's Affairs
- (5) Sindhia's Affairs
- (6) Peshwa's Affairs
- (7) Holkar's Affairs
- (8) Bundelkhand
- (9) Miscellaneous

The records under Nagpur Residency refer to the transfer of Mr Elphinstone to Poona as Resident there, and the appointment of Mr Jenkins as the Resident at Nagpur. Payment of pensions for six months (1st July to 31st December 1809) to Shridhar Pandit amounts to Rs 16,000, and to Jaswant Rao and Jaikisan Pandit for one year (1st January to 31st December 1809) amounts to Rs 21,000. These pensions, paid to the Rajah's servants, made them spies of the British, who could always influence the management of Bhonsla's affairs through these traitors. Bhonsla's affairs during this period show some significant developments. It is noticed that the Bhonsla had increased his army on his frontier in order to occupy Hoshangabad and Seoni. In this matter he did not achieve much success. Then the British proposed to station an army for the security of Bhonsla's northern frontier but it was not acceptable to the Bhonsla. The Nawab of Bhopal was subsequently sounded to accept such an army and he was inclined to do so, but no further development took place.

The documents under Sambalpur Affairs contain important information. Nana Saheb, Raghoji's brother, had Ratanpur and Chanda as his appanage. As the ruler of Ratanpur, he controlled the territories of Sambalpur and some of the neighbouring Rajahs. The Rajah of Sambalpur had been captured long before this time and had been retained as a prisoner by Nana Saheb. Now by treacherous means Sambalpur was occupied by Ramachandra Wagh, an officer of Nana Saheb, and the Rani, the sole ruler of Sambalpur, fled away to take shelter with the British. One of the documents pertain to the pilgrim tax levied by the Zamindar of Mayurbhanj in Orissa on the pilgrims passing through his territory to Puri. The amount, thus collected, incidentally shows the number of such pilgrims visiting Puri from the north every year.

Under Pindaries the records reveal interesting facts. Chitoo, the leader of the Pindaries, was determined to devastate Bhonsla's territories because Bhonsla's troops on his north-western frontier had killed his adopted son. In consequence, they spread into

Chhattisgarh and Chanda and even threatened Nagpur, the environs of which within four miles of it were subjected to their raids. The British Resident had to call for some reinforcements to his escort from Hyderabad. Chitoo and Karim Khan had declared that they intended to wrest Garha Mandla from the Bhonsla. Though Bhonsla's Commander Sadik Ali Khan defeated a strong contingent of Pindaries on 8th December 1809 within a few months after this defeat they had spread into Seoni and Betul. Tired of their depredations the Bhonsla had at one time thought of giving them a part of his territories in "the vicinity of Nizam's frontier" on the condition that they stopped their ravages. He had also negotiated for a British army to be stationed near his northern frontier as a security measure. These plans did not materialise. Close's advance from Poona through Berar and Nagpur territories up to the Nerbudda however proved an effective check to their raids for sometime.

The records further indicate that at this time the Governor General was eager to prevent Meer Khan another leader of the Pindaries and an ally of Jaswant Rao Holkar from securing a foothold in or near the Bhonsla's territories in the north because of two important considerations. Firstly Meer Khan might carve out a principality for himself in these regions and then form an alliance with the Nizam and thus become a menace to the security and tranquillity of the British Empire in India. Secondly the territories which Meer Khan was likely to acquire might be conquered and given to the Bhonsla as a compensation for his losses at the Second Maratha War in order to conciliate him.

Regarding Nizam's affairs the documents of the year 1807 record the dismissal of Rajah Mahipat Ram from the civil authority in Berar the appointment of Rajah Gorind Baksh thereto and the proposal that a portion of the subsidiary force be stationed permanently at Basim. The dismissal of Rajah Mahipat Ram created some trouble for the British and the Nizam whose favourite he was. He fled to Sholapur and brought about a *coup d'état* there. A small British force sent to punish him was defeated with some loss. But ultimately he was driven out and sought shelter with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

On the 8th December 1808 died the aged minister Meer Allum and there followed for sometime a series of intrigues and counter intrigues for succession to that office, in which the ladies of the harem played a significant part. Ultimately Munir-ul Mulk was appointed to succeed Meer Allum. But soon after his appointment he became jealous of his Secretary or Peshkar Rajah Chandulal and through the instrumentality of his niece and Nizam's favourite wife Chandni Begum created some misunderstanding and suspicion in the mind of the Nizam against Chandulal. Swayed by suspicion that Rajah Chandulal was more eager to serve the British interest than his the Nizam almost precipitated a minor crisis by refusing audience to the British Resident when on one occasion the latter sought it. During this period the Nizam swelling in suppressed suspicion and anger is reported to have committed some of the most capricious senseless and even ferocious acts in his daily life. He

is said to have himself beaten to death one of his maid servants and to have been cooking his own food with his own hands. But ultimately the cloud of suspicion was cleared away by the patient and conciliatory efforts of the British Resident Mr H. Russell and Rajah Chandu Lal, and the latter was restored to favour.

Sindhia's affairs during this period show signs of mismanagement in external relations and gradual deterioration in internal administration. His relations with the Rajput states of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, which were never very cordial, worsened under the direction of Bapoo Rao Sindhia and Rajah Ambajee Ingolia. At one time, therefore, Dowlat Rao thought of personally intervening in the Rajput affairs. South of his territories he was inclined to pursue a scheme of conquest, that is of Bhopal, in collaboration with the Bhonsla and Holkar. Terms on the basis of which the conquest and partition of Bhopal were to be effected were discussed, but the parties did not go very far in the realization of their ambitions. Internal administration deteriorated due to the mutual jealousies of Ministers. Raja Ambajee Ingolia, Sarji Rao Ghatgay and Baboo Rao Angria pulled different ways, and at one time it was reported that Sindhia was going to marry a daughter of Baboo Rao Angria in order to neutralise the influence of Baija Bai, Sindhia's wife, and her father Sarji Rao Ghatgay. The revenue had dwindled from crore and a half to 70 lakhs, and consequently the troops were heavily in arrears of pay.

In May 1809 died Rajah Ambajee Ingolia, and in July of the same year Sarji Rao Ghatgay was killed in consequence of a tragic but intriguing incident. Meer Khan, the Pindari leader, acting on behalf of his master Jaswant Rao Holkar, often raided Rajput states in collaboration with the generals of the Sindhia. These interminable predatory activities of the Holkar and Sindhia made the Rajput states gradually turn away from them and seek the protection of the British.

During this period the Peshwa experienced some domestic difficulties due to the defiant attitude of some of his feudatory chieftains like Appa Saheb Patwardhan and Bapuji Ganesh Gokla, and due to the ambitions and unfriendliness of his brother Chimnaji Appa Sadashiv Mankeshwar. Peshwa's minister, failed to bring about a settlement of the matters under dispute between Appa Saheb and the Peshwa on the one hand and between Gokla and the Peshwa on the other. The timely intervention of the British Resident, however, resulted in the peaceful termination of the matters at issue between the Peshwa and the Gokla, but it failed in regard to that between the Peshwa and Appa Saheb Patwardhan. Subsequently, a settlement was effected only by a threat of force.

Chimnaji, Peshwa's brother, is not during this period inclined to live on cordial terms with the Peshwa. When Jaswant Rao Holkar proposed a visit to Jejoori on a pilgrimage and wanted to pay respect to the Peshwa at Poona it was resisted by the Peshwa and not liked by the Resident. But Chimnaji seems to have entertained the proposal, and was in correspondence with the Holkar, for reasons of forming a sort of conspiracy with him against the

Peshwa Ultimately however the proposed visit of the Holkar did not come off. The Peshwa during this period wanted to appoint a Sir Subahdar for the management of what he claimed as his possessions in Hindustan like Kalpi, Jhansi, Orchha, etc. The British Resident Colonel Close resisted his claim on the ground that it implied a breach of the treaty of Bassein. On the same ground Elphinstone the successor of Close at the Poona Court objected to the proposed transfer of Kara Koti by the Bhonsla and Sindhiya to the Peshwa without the previous sanction of the British Government. In this connection Elphinstone tried to impress upon the Peshwa that by the treaty of Bassein Sindhiya and Bhonsla became foreign princes and therefore Peshwa's relations with them became a subject of approval by the British Government.

Other events that occurred during this period are the death of the baby son and the only child of the Peshwa and of Yashoda Bai the widow of Madho Rao Peshwa and the disaffection of the Southern jagirdars and specially of Abdullah Khan the Nawab of Sanvanoor. Abdullah Khan was defeated and captured and later blown from the mouth of the gun. The depredation of the Pindaries and the claims of the Peshwa for Chauth from the Nizam are also referred to. The last document in this section is a dispatch from the Chief Secretary Edmonstone in which he discusses in a masterly way the good and bad effects of the system of Subsidiary Alliances.

Holkar's affairs during this period were much in a mess. Owing to his bad health and mental condition his Pindary collaborator Meer Khan was gaining ascendancy in his Government. He was in combination with Sarji Rao Ghatgay busy for some time in Rajputana committing depredations in Jaipur territories. Jaswant Rao had given up the idea of interfering in the affairs of Rajput states. His army had dwindled in strength like his revenues and he himself was fast sinking in health. He is said to have been possessed and certainly showed signs of delirium during his last days. He wanted to go to Jeepoori on a pilgrimage to be cured of his disease and in that connection had written a letter to Chimanji Appa in which he professed deep loyalty to him in preference to the Peshwa. "I have lately dispatched," he wrote, "my brother Meer Khan and I have an army consisting of near a lac and half of troops. The pleasure of the Rao Sahib (the Peshwa) does not appear to be what it ought to be. I must take courage. I am looking with hope towards you." (Page 558) Soon after this he died (1811) and Tulsi Bai in league with a few others invited Meer Khan to become the head of the Government. Malhar Rao a minor son of Jaswant Rao succeeded and applied for a robe of investiture to the Mughal Emperor at Delhi. This application was resisted by the British Resident Charles Metcalfe on the ground that "under existing order of things an investiture from the throne of Delhi could add no validity to the succession of Malhar Rao."

In regard to the 'Bundelkhand Affairs' only two important facts are referred to in these documents. One is that Shahnagar situated in the Zamindari of Shahgar (page 569) was claimed by the Bhonsla of Nagpur. But that claim was untenable and the

Zamindari was handed over to the Rajah of Punna. The other fact referred to, is the dispute between the Chief of Garha Kota and the Bhonsla. The latter was besieging Garha Kota, but when the troops of Sindhia under Jean Baptiste arrived they abandoned it and thus let it fall into the hands of the Sindhia.

Under "Miscellaneous", a number of documents contain interesting information pertaining to the currencies and their rates of exchange, Hindu-Muslim riots at Delhi and Benares, remission of duties levied on the pilgrims at Gaya and Allahabad, and prices of foodgrains in Nagpur territories. The two Hindu-Muslim riots briefly reported in the documents in pages 576—79 bring out the fanatical intolerance of the Muslim population of these cities about one hundred and fifty years ago.

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5	28th August 1807	R Jenkins, Acting Resident at Nagpur	The Rt Hon'ble Lord Minto, Governor- General.	3
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NAGPUR RESIDENCY AND BHONSLA'S AFFAIRS

Letter No 1 —Elphinstone informs Col Close, Resident at Poona, of his having delivered over charge of Nagpur Residency to Richard Jenkins

FROM—M S ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE RESIDENT AT POONA

Nagpur, the 25th January 1807

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day delivered over charge of the Residency at Nagpur to Richard Jenkins, Esquire

Letter No 2 —Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla had made considerable additions to his army on the frontier for the occupation of Hoshangabad and Seoni. The Sindhia had ordered the evacuation of Seoni but the Killedar refuses to do so

FROM—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, GOVERNOR
GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Nagpur, the 15th May 1807

* * * *

The Raja has lately made and continues to make considerable additions to the force of his armies on the frontier and is, in a great degree, concentrating them in the vicinity of Hoshangabad. I am informed by the Ministers that the Raja has now great hopes of being put in possession of Hoshangabad and Seoni, and that a force is actually before the latter place in consequence of express orders from Sindhia for its evacuation. It appears however that the Killedar refuses to obey them. The nature of the

agreement between this Government and Sindhuia on the subject I do not correctly know but it is said to be of a pecuniary nature. Engagements of this description the Raja is not very forward to perform and indeed I should conclude the inclination if not the power of Sindhuia to perform his part to be at least problematical. That engagements of some nature however have been negotiated appear to be the more probable & the Raja a short time since had not only put a stop to all fresh levies of troops but had even issued orders respecting the diminution of his force with a view to the rainy season and the power of the Pindaries has been greatly diminished by the captivity of their chiefs although it is likely they will join with Wazeer Mohammed Khan in opposing the progress of the Raja's troops.

Letter No 3 Mr Baillie informs that on 20th July he took charge of the Residence at the Court of Nawab Wazir of Oudh

FROM J BAILLIE LUCKNOW

TO—R JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Lucknow the 20th July 1807

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have this day taken charge of the Residency at the Court of His Excellency the Vizir

Letter No 4—The letter intimates that Lord Minto took the oath of office on 31st July and that Barlow became third in Council

FROM—N B EDMONSTON SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William the 31st July 1807

I am directed to inform you that the Hon'ble the Court of Directors have been pleased to appoint the Right Hon'ble Lord Minto to the office of Governor-General of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal Lieutenant-General George Hewett to be second in Council and Commander-in-Chief of all the Company's forces in India Sir George Hilario Barlow Baronet and one of the Knights of the most Hon'ble Order of the Bath to be third in Council and John Lumsden Esquire to be the fourth in Council.

2 Conformably to the aforesaid orders of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors the Right Hon'ble Lord Minto has this day taken the usual oaths and has taken his seat as Governor-General and Sir George Hilario Barlow Baronet and John Lumsden Esquire, have taken the usual oaths and their seats as Members of the Council of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

Letter No 5—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla's army had crossed the Nerbudda for a siege of Hoshangabad in co-operation with Sindhia's troops. Nana Sahib is joining Sindhia for wresting the territory of Bhopal from its Nawab and for having half of it when conquered. He has sent Keshao Govind his manager of Chhatisgarh to Jubbulpore with a sum of money meant for the purpose. He is raising two battalions of Infantry in Nagpur to establish his authority in Sambalpur region. He has been thinking of reinstating the captive Rajahs of Sambalpur regions in their own zamindaries.

FROM—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR
GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Nagpur, the 28th August 1807

* * * *

No transaction of very material importance has occurred since the date of my last despatch. The Rajah's army on the Nerbudda has been ordered to cross that river for the purpose of co-operation with Sindhia's troops in the long-projected siege of Hoshangabad. The forces of this Government however are so ill-paid that the army has hitherto refused to march. The attention of this Court appears to be almost exclusively directed at present to the affairs of Bhopal, and it is now said that Sindhia has been induced through the negotiations of Vinkojee Pidree a Banker much in Nana Sahib's confidence and now in Sindhia's Camp to promise half of the territories of Bhopal to Nana Sahib. The discovery of his brother's intrigues for this purpose caused considerable displeasure to the Rajah, but the influence of his mother has been successfully exerted to appease his resentment and even to extort the Rajah's approval of the arrangement. Nana Sahib is said to have actually advanced to Sindhia a considerable part, if not the whole of sum which has been fixed as the price of his share and which is said to be two lacks and a half of Rupees, and this is rendered probable by a late excursion of Keshao Govind Nana Sahib's manager in Chateesgarh to Jubbulpore, where he is said to have carried a considerable convoy of treasure.

Nana Sahib is raising at Nagpur two battalions of Infantry intended I understand to form part of a force which is destined to establish his authority in Sambalpur, after the Dasera festival. This object he has hitherto found it impossible to accomplish by negotiation, and part of his plan is now represented to be to reinstate the Rajahs whom he has in confinement at Chanda in their respective zamindaries. Nana Sahib also has been persuaded to postpone his own departure to Chanda until the conclusion of the rainy season.

Letter No 6—Jenkins reports that the siege of Hoshangabad had been started by the Bhonsla's troops. Bukshee Ghulam Haidar Khan lately dismissed from Nizam's service had arrived at Nagpur with 700 horse and 300 foot to offer his services to the Bhonsla. Nana Sahib had raised an army in Nagpur and had directed it against the Rajah of Bustar who had disclaimed his dependence on Nana Sahib.

FROM—R JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE RT HONBLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR
GENERAL LORD WILLIAM

Nagpur the 11th October 1857

The Rajah's army commanded by Ganpat Rao which was lately cantoned at Shahpore has advanced to the vicinity of Hoshangabad and batteries have been erected and advanced in three different directions to within a short distance of the fort against which they are said to have been playing with some effect. An inundation of the Nerbudda which carried away one of the principal bastions and otherwise caused considerable damage to the walls appears to have been the signal for this attack but the principal hope of success seems to rest in the small number of the garrison and the scarcity of grain and other provisions in the fort which may induce a capitulation before the Nerbudda becomes fordable and expectations are entertained at Nagpur of its speedy fall. The Pindaries are however prepared to unite with Wazeer Mohammed Khan in an attempt to raise the siege and as the Nerbudda will shortly begin to be fordable there appears little doubt that those freebooters will then commence their operations either by cutting off the supplies of the besieging army or by making incursions into the Raja's dominions.

The force of Sudeek Ali Khan has in part crossed the Nerbudda and will probably join in the siege, by investing the place on the side which is protected by that river. No force from Sindia has yet joined the Rajah's troops. By my latest accounts the Army of Ganpat Rao including the troops of Devi Singh formerly in the Nizam's service is said to consist of 900 Infantry with 24 guns and about 5000 horse and that Sadik Ali Khan to contain 5000 Infantry with 18 guns and 5000 horse principally Pathans. The Infantry is armed in part with muskets there are also several corps of Arabs and of Sikhs. His heavy guns remain near Chouragarh.

Since the date of my last dispatch Bukshee Ghoolam Haidar Khan who was lately dismissed from the Nizam's service has arrived at Nagpur with about 700 horse and 300 Infantry to offer his service to this Government. His terms are said to be too high for the Rajah but some partial engagement has been concluded.

with him. He will probably proceed to Sindhia's Camp should he be finally unsuccessful at Nagpur. Any alarm from the Pindaries will be likely to have an effect in his favour.

Keshao Govind, Nana Sahib's manager in Chattisgarh, arrived three days ago at Nagpur, and Nana Sahib has been of late engaged in raising troops in this quarter and in different parts of the country. At Nagpur he has already raised 900 Infantry and 200 horse which have marched for Chanda and 1,500 horse and foot with 4 guns besides 500 newly raised Goosain Infantry have proceeded in that direction from the vicinity of Ratanpore. The original plan of Nana Sahib was said to be directed to the occupation of Sambalpur for which purpose the new levies were set on foot, but the late refractory conduct of the Bustar Chief is mentioned as the cause of the change in Nana Sahib's intentions which these movements would indicate. The object now in view is stated to be the punishment of the Bustar Rajah who by late accounts has disclaimed all dependence upon Nana Sahib, and committed depredations on his villages in the vicinity of that country. Nana Sahib continues unwell, and I do not hear that he is altogether determined when to proceed himself to Chanda. In a short time his intentions will probably be decided.

Letter No 7.—The short letter conveys the information that Elphinstone had “just returned to Nagpur”

FROM—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—THE OFFICER COMMANDING, GOVERNOR'S BODY-GUARD

Nagpur, the 4th March 1808

I have the pleasure to enclose the acquittance roll and account of expenses of the party of the body-guards for the month of February, and to inform you that I have drawn as usual for the amount Sicca Rupees 535-3-0

The Hon'ble M Elphinstone who is just returned to Nagpur will henceforth continue to draw for the expenses of the Jemadar's party in favour of his Agents in Calcutta Messrs Colvins and Bazett. I beg to add that I have had every reason to be pleased with the conduct of the Jemadar and his party since their arrival at the Residency.

Letter No 8—Jenkins is informed that as Elphinstone had been deputed on a public mission to the camp of Dowlat Rao Sindhia he was to act as the Resident at Nagpur as before

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—R JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William the 28th March 1808

The Governor General in Council having been pleased to depute Mr Elphinstone on a public mission to the Camp of Dowlat Rao Sindhia I am directed to inform you that he has been directed to deliver over charge of the Residency at Nagpur to you and to desire that you will act in the capacity of Resident until further orders. You will draw the allowances assigned to you on the occasion of your formerly being appointed to officiate in that character

The Governor General has addressed a letter to the Rajah of Berar notifying Mr Elphinstone's mission and your appointment to the charge of the Residency at His Highness's Court. That letter will be transmitted from the Persian Department

Letter No 9—The letter acquaints Jenkins with the facts that led to the negotiations between the British and Raja Ranjit Singh of Lahore how Ranjit Singh took advantage of the British request for co-operation against a possible French invasion through Persia to impose his authority over the chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jumna and how ultimately he was forced to withdraw

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—R. JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William the 27th January 1809

As the Military preparations on the north western frontier of the British dominions have no doubt attracted the notice of the Court at which you reside the Right Honble the Governor General in Council deems it proper that you should be apprized of the occasion of this assemblage of troops with a view to enable you to satisfy such enquiries as you may receive on this subject

2 In consequence of the prevailing report of the design on the part of France to attempt the invasion of India by the aid or connivance of Persia through the territories of the King of Kabul and the Rajah of Lahore, the Governor-General in Council deemed it proper to dispatch Embassies to the courts of Kabul and Lahore for the purpose of apprizing them of this mediated

design of warning them of the danger to which their dominion would be exposed by the eventual approach of a European army destined to invade the British possessions in India, and of inducing them from motives of common interest to co-operate with the British Power in opposing the utmost practicable resistance to the advance of the enemy

3 The Envoy to Lahore shortly after his arrival in the camp of the Rajah who advanced from his capital to receive him, explained the object of his mission. This communication appeared to produce the strongest impression on the mind of the Rajah who manifested his previous ignorance of the designs of the French, acquiesced in the necessity of mutual co-operation as against a common danger, and generally assented to the Envoy's propositions on that subject. The Rajah however subsequently brought forward propositions on his part, which evidently showed that his acquiescence in a system of alliance and co-operation with the British Government was directed to objects of personal interest and ambition. These propositions were, that the Rajah's sovereignty over the territories of the Sikh Chiefs between the rivers Sutlej and Jamuna, the establishment of which had long been the favourite object of his ambition, but from the prosecution of which he had hitherto been withheld by a respect for the paramount right of the British Government, should be formally acknowledged and that the British Government should abstain from any interference in his differences with the state of Kabul and in his views of conquest and exaction in the territories subject to the Afghan dominion. The envoy properly urged the irrelevancy of these propositions to the objects of his mission but without success and the Rajah finally consented to refer the question to the decision of the British Government.

4 While the conferences on these subjects were pending the Rajah suddenly declared his intention to march with the whole of his force towards the Sutlej and actually proceeded without acquainting the Envoy with his design, finally crossing the river with the intention of enforcing the submission of the Sikh Chiefs, notwithstanding his previous consent to refer the question of his title to Sovereignty over them to the decision of the British Government.

5 The assurances of the Rajah that the primary subject of negotiation would be resumed at every successive station induced the Envoy to attend the Rajah during his progress through the territories of the Sikhs although the Rajah did not scruple pending the reference to this Government to bring portion of that territory under his authority.

6 Under these circumstances it became necessary to determine the course of conduct to be pursued towards the Rajah of Lahore. From the information communicated by the envoy it manifestly appeared that the danger to which his dominions would be exposed by the approach of an invading army had made no

real impression on his mind. That the views of the Rajah in agreeing to proposals of co-operation against that danger were to obtain the concurrence of the British Government in the prosecution of his ambitious scheme. That the Rajah was actuated by an irreclaimable spirit of jealousy and suspicion utterly inconsistent with that sense of common interest and common danger which must constitute the only solid basis of alliance between the two states for purposes of mutual defence and that the habits and disposition of his Government were entirely military and his views exclusively those of conquest and inordinate ambition.

It became necessary to determine in the first instance whether to declare the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna to be under the protection of the British Government or to acquiesce in the Rajah's extension of his dominions to the frontier of the British possessions in the expectation of inducing him cordially to unite in a system of co-operation against the eventual approach of an invading Army.

8 The decision of the question principally turned on two points—

(1) Sequences with reference to the interests of the British Government of the approach of the Rajah's dominion to our own and the degree in which the honour and justice of the British character would be affected by refraining from the exercise of those paramount rights over the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna to which the British Government succeeded by the establishment of its dominion in the North of Hindustan rights unequivocally recognized by those chiefs who had earnestly and repeatedly urged their claim to our protection against the violence and usurpation of the Rajah of Lahore.

(2) The degree of security or moral assurance which the British Government would possess with regard to the Rajah's adherence to the obligation of the engagements which he might contract by conceding the demands which he had rendered the condition of his entering into engagement of the nature proposed by this Government.

9 After mature deliberation the Governor-General in Council was decidedly of opinion that even without reference to the invasion of India the approximation of the Rajah of Lahore's military dominion to the Company's possession and the introduction of his power into Hindustan in the form of substantive territories, I state, would expose to hazard the tranquillity and eventually even the security of the British possessions. That the danger would be augmented by its coincidence and probable connection with French invasion. That the concession of the Rajah's demands would afford no security to his co-operation against the invading enemy but most probably tend to animosity and extend the objects of his ambition. That the credit of the British Government was in a considerable degree concerned in affording protection to the southern Sikh Chiefs who by the prescriptive relation in which they uniformly stood towards the ruling power in

the North of Hindustan were in fact the dependants of the British Government and over whom the Rajah of Lahore possessed no right of supremacy or control. That in addition to these disadvantages of the solicited concession an ambitious and military power aggrandized by the conquests which that concession would produce would be substituted upon our frontier for a confederacy of friendly chiefs rendered grateful for our protection and interested in our cause whose territories Government could at all times command for purposes of defensive arrangement against the danger of a French invasion and that Government had no alternative but either to declare and enforce if necessary, a resolution to confine the Rajah of Lahore's dominion within its ancient limits or to incur all the evil, discredit, and embarrassment of a contrary determination without a reasonable expectation of any adequate advantage.

10 The Governor-General in Council therefore resolved to extend the protection of the British power to the Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna against the encroachment of the Rajah of Lahore, to require the Rajah to withdraw his army to the northern side of the former river, and to establish a military post near the frontier of the Punjab not only for the security of the southern territories, but as an advanced post to be connected with future defensive arrangements against the approach of an enemy from the quarter of Persia. The credit of the British character and reputation also, which would materially be affected by our submission to the Rajah's ambitions and unjustifiable views, and the support of the dignity of the British Government which the conduct of the Rajah had publicly insulted by employing his army in the subjugation of the territories of the Sikh Chiefs while the question of his being at liberty to extend his dominion over them was with his own consent under reference to this Government and by a demeanor towards the envoy in many points inconsistent with the obligations of respect and in some even subversive of the privileges of that sacred character furnished an additional and powerful motive to the adoption of this course of policy.

11 The resolution was accordingly announced in instructions to the Envoy and in a letter to the Rajah who in mean time continued to subdue the territory of the Sikhs, advancing his army to within a short distance of the Company's frontier exacting from them pecuniary contributions and finally compelling the principal among them to enter into engagements of allegiance to his power.

12 During a considerable period of the time employed in these proceedings the Rajah of Lahore, evidently with a view to indicate that those proceedings were sanctioned by the British Government induced the Envoy by a full persuasion and by continuing a delusive negotiation to attend his Camp.

13 The possibility of the Rajah's undertaking an expedition against the Sikhs to the southward of the Sutlej had been foreseen and the Envoy had been directed in that event to abstain from

attending the Camp of the Rajah. But the assurances afforded at every successive march of a decisive reply to the propositions with which the Envoy was charged and the sense which the Envoy entertained of the importance of prosecuting the object of his mission led him to deviate from the instructions which he had received so far as to accompany the Rajah during a part of his progress to the Southward. The Envoy however at length determined that a position should be fixed for the continuance of the mission until the Rajah's return a demand with which the Rajah reluctantly complied.

14 In the course of the negotiation above mentioned the Rajah proposed the execution of two separate treaties one stipulating generally for perpetual amity and friendship between the two states the other containing the obligations of co-operation against a European enemy but repeated his consent that the question respecting his pretension to sovereignty over the Sikhs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna should be subject to the decision of the British Government. The Rajah was anxious to conclude the first of those Treaties with a view to preclude the danger which he apprehended from the revolt of his disaffected subjects and subjugated Vassals who he had reason to fear would take advantage of any opportunity favourable to their emancipation from the authority of his Government. With respect to the second treaty the Envoy had required his assent to form stipulations for the introduction of our troops into his country and the establishment of Depots which however the Rajah clogged with conditions rendering them nearly nugatory. After much discussion these stipulations were adjusted between the Rajah and the Envoy but the Rajah then declined executing that Treaty unless assured of our acquiescence in the demand which had been referred to the decision of the British Government and all further negotiation was in consequence suspended.

15 Previously to the Envoy's receipt of the instructions of the Government announcing its resolution to protect the Sikh Chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jamuna and directing him to require the Rajah to withdraw his troops and to relinquish the conquests which he had made with so much rapidity and with so little regard to the rights of those whose possessions he had usurped as well as with so little respect for this Government the Rajah had resolved to return with the main body of his troops to his own dominions and although immediately apprized by the Envoy (then at a distance from the Rajah's position) of his receipt of the orders of Government on the point referred to its determination the Rajah systematically eluded a meeting and by rapid marches reached his capital followed by the main body of his army but leaving a considerable force in the places of which he had possessed himself in the course of this expedition.

16 The Envoy having followed the Rajah to his Capital communicated the purport of his instructions to the Rajah who however without a compliance with the just demands of the

British Government evaded the execution of them and even issued orders for reassembling his troops. After a considerable period of evasive negotiation the object of which was to effect a compromise of our demands and either to obtain the renunciation of our resolution to establish a military post near the frontier of the Punjab or to induce the British Government to fix its position in consent and concurrence with him the Rajah finally signified his assent to the requisition for the removal of the troops which he had left between the Sutlej and the Jamuna.

17 In the mean time the necessary arrangements were adopted for the formation of the detachment at Karnal and other corps were advanced to the frontier of our possessions for the purpose of supporting the detachments, if circumstances should render it necessary and to be prepared for the possible event of a rupture with the Rajah of Lahore and instructions were issued directing the advance of the Detachment to its intended position and authorizing the expulsion of the Rajah's troops from the territory between the Sutlej and the Jamuna by force of arms if the Rajah should either refuse to withdraw them or should endeavour to procrastinate and evade a compliance with that requisition and by the latest accounts the detachment was prepared to advance from the Karnal for the purposes above described.

18 The favourable intelligence recently received from Europe, justifying a confident belief that the designs of France against the British possessions in India, if not entirely relinquished must at least be suspended for a long period of time the necessity of any immediate arrangements of precautionary defence against the danger of those designs is superseded. The object of the detachment advancing into the territories between the Sutlej and the Jamuna is therefore now limited for the protection of those territories against the future encroachment of the Rajah of Lahore and as this object may be secured by . . . for the detachment position less advanced than was originally proposed, Government has resolved to adopt that modified arrangement which as removing one source of the apprehensions which the . . . of the past transactions are calculated to excite or keep alive in the mind of the Rajah of Lahore, with regard to the extent of our designs, may be expected to facilitate an accommodation of subsisting differences and to promote the continuance of the relations of amity between the two states.

19 To these unfounded apprehensions indeed the conduct of the Rajah in assembling his troops and in manifesting an apparent disposition to withhold a compliance with the just and moderate requisitions of the British Government, must be ascribed. The Governor-General in Council therefore entertains a confident expectation that the measures which have been adopted to relieve these apprehensions, will preclude the recurrence of hostilities with the Rajah of Lahore.

0. Although with a view to convey to you a general knowledge of the origin and progress of the late transactions it has been necessary to state in some degree of detail the sentiments and reflections which guided the measures of Government you will of course understand that it is unnecessary in any communication with the courts at which you reside on this subject to detail the arguments under consideration herein explained your own judgment will point out to you the facts and the circumstances which it may be proper to state on such

Letter No. 10 - In the letter Edmonstone gives the views of the British Government regarding interference in the dispute between Raghojee Bhonsla and Meer Khan and concludes that Government will not consider its interference to be admissible under circumstances of the most unquestionable exigency as connected with the tranquillity and security of the British dominions or those of his allies.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R. J. JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William the 5th July 1809

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 11 of the 11th ultimo respecting the proceedings and supposed designs of Meer Khan and the effects of them on the condition of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla

2 The communications contained in that dispatch are considered by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to be highly important with regard to the question which they involve on the subject of the interposition of the British power in the event of the Rajah demanding our assistance. I am directed to observe that it is impracticable at the present moment to form a determination applicable to all the circumstances which may attend the cases at the period of its occurrence.

3 You are well aware that any interference in the disputes of foreign states unconnected with us by the obligations of defensive alliance is adverse to the general principles of policy prescribed by the Legislature, and by the Hon'ble the Court of Directors and uniformly observed by this Government at the same time circumstances might certainly arise to render such interference the measures of preventing rather than of causing the interruption of the tranquillity and security at present enjoyed by the British Government and its allies and consequently our withholding it inconsistent with the object of a general system of forbearance.

4 The particular case to which your dispatch relates appears to be connected with results practically extending far beyond the interests which immediately affects. It is necessary to ascertain

with more precision and certainty than is at present practicable the probable consequences either of our interposition or forbearance. A knowledge of them may be expected to be developed by the progress of events and transactions, and his Lordship in Council therefore deems it necessary to suspend a final determination on the important question which you have submitted to his consideration, but I am directed generally to observe that Government will not consider its interference to be admissible excepting only under circumstances of the most unquestionable exigency as connected with the tranquillity and security of the British dominions or those of its allies

Letter No 11—In this letter Jenkins describes his discussions with the Bhonsla and his ministers about the general policy determined by the Governor General against Meer Khan's attack on Bhonsla's territories. The offer of Military assistance to be given to the Bhonsla could be accepted by him only if it was without any condition. That was the view of the Bhonsla.

FROM—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR
TO—COLONEL B CLOSE

Camp at Ramtek, the 29th October 1809

Late on the night of the 27th I received by express, the private communications of Mr Edmonstone on the subject of the Governor-General's resolutions with regard to Meer Khan, and the measures in train for the relief of the Rajah under the general control, of Colonel Close and directing me to communicate them to the Rajah without waiting for my official instructions in the manner which might appear calculated to produce the most favourable impression upon his mind. By the same Dawke I received a letter from the Governor-General for Meer Khan.

2 I lost, not a moment in intimating to the Durbar that I had communications of importance to make to the Rajah, and when I attended His Highness about 9 o'clock yesterday morning at his tents I found the Rajah attended by Goojabba, Shreedhar Pandit and others of his principal ministers.

3 After the usual compliments had passed, agreeably to an arrangement which I had proposed in my note, to have a conference with the minister before communicating the subject of my visit to the Rajah, Shreedhar Pandit and myself retired to a separate tent. My object was to have an unreserved conversation on the subject with the minister, and to judge from its result of the best mode of opening the business to the Rajah. I intended indeed to have first paid a separate visit to Shreedhar Pandit but the Rajah's curiosity seemed to be too much excited to hear any particular delay.

4 When we were alone I opened the subject to Shreedhar Pandit in nearly the following terms which I had committed to writing in the preceding night

5 The arrival of Meer Khan in this quarter with a large army his proceedings towards this Government and the occupation of Currah Mandla by his troop have been made known by me from time to time to the Governor General and have excited the greatest concern in His Lordship's mind. The Governor General has also understood that Meer Khan is preparing to cross the Nerbudda in order to the prosecution of designs tending not only to the plunder and devastation of the Rajah's hereditary dominions on the side of that river but to the entire subjection of those dominions to his authority. The reports on this subject have created great uneasiness in the mind of the Governor-General.

6 The Rajah knows and has always acknowledged the real and disinterested regard which the British Government has ever shown to His Highness's state and on the present occasion the Governor-General has viewed with the most painful suspense the progress of an adventurer like Meer Khan in extending his arms over the possessions of the Rajah's ancient and respectable Government. The preservation of regular and long established states opposition to innovation in the existing political system and particularly the support of a friendly power such as that of the Rajah at a period of danger and distress are motives which every wise and liberal Government must ever have in view in its general policy. Aggrandizement and extension of dominion are not the objects of the British Government and as long as the present discussions between Meer Khan and the Rajah could be considered of a nature entirely referable to internal concerns between this Government and that of Holkar the British Government true to its principle of avoiding all unnecessary interference with the disputes of foreign powers which might affect their just rights and independence has kept silence.

7 In the actual state of affairs however a longer forbearance would not only be a desertion of its own interests and those of its allies but with regard to the Rajah might be considered unfriendly and illiberal views and might have waited until the necessity of the Rajah's affairs had compelled him seek for its aid against Meer Khan and to take it on whatever terms it might have wished to impose. It might have waited until the whole of the Rajah's territories were plundered and ravaged His Highness driven from his capital and his power almost extinguished to take the merit to itself of having restored His Highness to his Government, and to have clogged its assistance in such a case with conditions and engagements inconsistent with His Highness's feelings or the independence of his power. Even with less obloquy it might have asked pecuniary compensation for the interposition of its power which it might have represented as solely arising from motives of friendship to the Rajah cloaking under

such professions the interest which it has in common with all the established powers of the Deccan, in the preservation of the state of Nagpur

8 Rejecting however the very idea of such motives, and assuming only to himself the glory of a liberal, open, and generous policy, the Governor-General unsolicited, and without expectation of any benefit beyond the legitimate security of the British Government and its allies and the increased sense of the value of his friendship, and the increased respect for British faith and moderation which such a proceeding cannot fail to impress on the Rajah's mind, and on the sentiments of every power in India has directed me to make the following communications

9 If Meer Khan persists in crossing the Nerbudda the interests of the Rajah, and those of the British Government and its allies are one and the same, and measures are in progress for affording to His Highness the most efficient aid to support his power, and to repress and chastise the irregular ambition of Meer Khan

10 Shridhar Pandit asked whether he had rightly understood me that the offer of aid was unconditional I said he had, and that the Governor-General considered the cause of the Rajah as that of the British Government and its allies I told him that as I considered him as a friend to both Governments, and as I wished to make the communication of the Governor-General's resolutions in favour of the Rajah in the terms I calculated to make the most favourable impression on His Highness's mind I had desired a previous conference with him, and requested his advice The minister said that nothing could be better calculated than my discourse to him, to be addressed to the Rajah, and as the Rajah would be impatient to know the subject of the conference, he would immediately prepare him by stating the general result of my communication, which His Highness would then hear from my own mouth

12 The minister immediately went to the Rajah, who shortly afterwards entered the tent with Shridhar Pandit His Highness with great cheerfulness and apparent satisfaction personally desired me to repeat to him what I had said to Shreedhar Pandit

13 I accordingly repeated to His Highness in as nearly the same terms as possible, the discourse which I had held to Shridhar Pandit The Rajah listened to me with very great attention and seeming pleasure and interrupted me several times to make me repeat those parts of it, which mentioned the disinterested views of the British Government The greatest impression appeared to be made on his mind by those parts of my discourse and when I had concluded His Highness addressed himself personally to me

14 His Highness said that as the success of Meer Khan in Carrah Manlik had been rather owing to his treachery and his use in negotiation than to his military power and His Highness had trusted that he might be able to chase that Chief with his own force which were embled on the Nerbadli and at Chapari he had not hitherto been willing to ask the aid of the British Government he said he thought he could not have expected it without some conditions advantageous to the British Government either in territorial or other respects and perhaps burthensome to his own but as the British Government of its own accord and merely actuated by sentiments of the purest friendship and goodwill towards him had made the offer of its unconditional support His Highness could not sufficiently express his sense of the liberal and friendliness of the proceeding. The sincerity of his heart he repeated several times could only be appreciated by the sympathy of a friendly heart.

15 His Highness then was pleased to pay me some compliments and to hint at obligations to me in this proceeding which I considered a stronger proof of his joy at the unexpected generosity of Government in proportion as he seemed in his reply on the subject of my discourse to him at being guarded in his expression of his gratitude and satisfaction.

16 I said that the interests of the British Government and its allies to prevent the dismemberment of a state so ancient and respectable as that of the Rajah and united as he was with them in the bonds of friendship and good understanding were the principal and acknowledged motives which had actuated the Governor-General. That I had frequently assured His Highness of the cordial interest which your (His) Lordship took in his welfare and prosperity and the measures which were in train for his support and assistance were the fruits in action of that interest which your (His) Lordship had not before an opportunity of manifesting otherwise than by professions.

17 I then told His Highness that the Governor-General was addressing (my) letter to him on the subject but had been unwilling to delay for a moment the communication of his resolution in his favour. His Highness said that he considered my personal communication as the direct expression of the Governor-General's sentiments. I was proceeding to mention more particularly the letter to Meer Khan and the military measures on foot but His Highness seemed desirous to close the conference and after repeating the professions of his friendship and satisfaction at my communication he said he would particulars at another time and requested me to attend him again on the following morning about the same hour when he should have made up his mind from consultation with his ministers as to what he would wish to say on the subject.

18 The Rajah also mentioned in the course of the conference that it had always been his wish to punish Meer Khan's aggression, and not to yield anything to him, but to gain time he had negotiated. He had now dismissed his Vakeel, being prepared to oppose Meer Khan's further progress.

19 I took my leave on receiving the usual compliment of Betel.

20 I conclude that the respect which the Rajah always manifests for his mother who is at Nagpur, made him desirous to receive her sentiments before he opened himself more fully on the subject of my communication. I have only further generally to remark on this conference, that the Rajah showed every mark of satisfaction, and gratitude for the liberal proceedings of the British Government which I could have expected from a native prince, educated and accustomed to disguise the most prominent emotions of the mind and passions.

21 Agreeably to the Rajah's desire, I proceeded to his tent again this morning about the same hour. After the customary forms of civility, I was requested to retire with Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao to a separate tent.

22 The minister commenced the conversation by saying that the Rajah felt the sincerest satisfaction and pleasure at the conference of yesterday, and the more he reflected on my communication, the greater was the impression made upon his mind by the liberal and generous friendship of the Governor-General. I replied to these professions and to some complimentary speeches which he said the Rajah had made with regard to myself by calling to Shridhar Pandit's recollection the Governor-General's former expressions of your desire to have an opportunity of giving the Rajah some substantial proofs of your regard, and I said that the present proceeding would tend to confirm in the Rajah's mind the sentiment that the British Government never made professions which it did not desire in practice. Shridhar Pandit said that the Rajah was indeed, and always had been impressed with that sentiment.

23 Shridhar proceeded to mention a question which he said the Rajah had desired him to propose to me. The proceedings of Meer Khan in this quarter were in the name of Jeswant Rao Holkar, and on account of demands which his Government pretended to have on the Rajah. Meer Khan was assisted by Holkar's troops, and any opposition to Meer Khan might be expected to involve a contest with Holkar. The Rajah wished to know what would be done in that case. I replied that I could not give a better answer to that question than by giving the minister for perusal a copy of the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan, which would manifest the opinion of Government with regard to the share which Holkar's Government had or might have in

the present proceedings but as I had not yet received any detailed instruction I should confine my self to the communication of that letter

4 Having perused that letter and expressed himself satisfied on the subject the minister rose from his seat and the Rajah who was in a neighbouring tent immediately joined us

5 The minister described to the Rajah the general heads of what had passed and read and explained to His Highness the letter to Meer Khan to which he told His Highness I had referred him for an answer to the question which he had been instructed to propose. The Rajah seemed much pleased and entirely satisfied with its contents and I agreed with His Highness and his minister in the inference which he drew that as the proceedings and projects of Meer Khan were considered by the Governor General as tending directly to sow the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of the British Government and its allies and to disturb the foundations of existing harmony and concord those proceedings and projects referred to Holkar and acknowledged by him would still be opposed by the British Government

6 On that part of the letter which says that the British Government and its allies would be disposed to become the medium of an amicable adjustment between the Rajah and Holkar His Highness only remarked that the aggression of Meer Khan had already caused him damage to the amount of many lacks of rupees. On the whole contents His Highness expressed himself very well satisfied and requested to have a copy of the letter to which I agreed

27 His Highness then addressed himself personally to me and expressed the gratitude which he felt for the very friendly proceeding of Government which he said rendered the power of the two states one and the same and united as it were their armies into one body. If at any time we should be desirous of a similar line of conduct on his part his forces he said were ours. I think this was his expression but it was obscure and guarded.

28 I then addressed myself to the minister and mentioned the general arrangement which was on foot for bringing a force to the Rajah's assistance. As some time, probably six weeks at least must elapse before the force under the personal command of Colonel Close could be sufficiently advanced I said I wished to be informed of His Highness's immediate plans against Meer Khan and of his opinion regarding the measures which that Chief was likely at this moment to pursue and I asked whether Meer Khan was expected soon to cross the Nerbudda. To this the Rajah replied personally that the forces of Sadik Ali Khan at Sirnagar and Amrut Rao Bukhari at Chapara amounted together to between twenty and thirty thousand men and that every attempt

would be made to oppose Meer Khan by those Chiefs in conjunction With regard to Meer Khan he said his views were undoubtedly to do him as much mischief as possible and that at the very moment, when he appeared most inclined to amicable measures he was hatching the most treacherous designs No kind of confidence could be placed in him for any good purpose although he was always ready for evil ones The Rajah added that he hoped the British troops would march with every expedition to the Wardha, from whence if near Amiaoti they might arrive at Nagpur in three or four days, and that according to the aspect of affairs when they might reach the Wardha, he would signify his wishes for their advance or otherwise to Nagpur.

29 I remarked that Colonel Close would certainly advance the troops destined for His Highness's relief with the greatest practicable expedition, and that his operations whatever they might be would be directed to produce the greatest possible benefit to the common cause and the greatest satisfaction to the Rajah At present, I said, His Highness would probably think that the longer Meer Khan could be prevented from crossing the Nerbudda, the better and I hinted as delicately as I could that it was possible the Governor-General's letter would have the effect of making Meer Khan less bold in prosecuting his former projects, he said he was sensible however that the distance of the British troops might lead him on the other hand, to attempt to carry everything instantaneously, but still he hoped his armies might make head against him until the arrival of Colonel Close

30 I said that even should Meer Khan not have crossed the Nerbudda before Colonel Close's arrival on the Wardha, it might be advisable on military grounds for a British force to be in advance from Nagpur The Rajah allowed that it might and said that he would be guided by any advice which might appear suitable at the time, and that he considered his own armies as ours, and the British troops as his own Although he added there might have been some doubt of his success unaided against Meer Khan, there could now be none of complete triumph over any enemies who might oppose

31 I then alluded to what I had heard of His Highness's negotiations with the Pindaries The Rajah immediately replied that his negotiations with them had been directed only to detach them from Meer Khan, and to secure his own territories from the additional injury of their depredations at such a time, but that his engagements with them were merely temporary His Highness said that he had now a person in their Camp to direct the operations which they had agreed to undertake against Meer Khan I asked whether any of them had crossed the Nerbudda The Rajah said they had not, nor was it his intention that they should, but they were to fall on the rear of Meer Khan to the northward of that river They were not, he added, to be depended upon, and although it was better to have them for him than against him, he

was aware of the danger of allowing them to pass the Nerbudda as they would not fail to do more injury to his country than they would do good to his cause

3 I remarked that the Rajah had certainly acted very prudently in confining any operations in which they were to be concerned to their own side of the river

33. His Highness now asked whether I had any late accounts from Meer Khan's Camp or from that of Holkar Before I could reply to his question he informed me that a small party of Pindaries had lately crossed the river and plundered a few villages but that they had immediately returned His Highness alluded to the alleged quarrel between Meer Khan's brother in law Casur Khan and Holkar's ministers in consequence of which the former had left the Camp This quarrel His Highness said was only pretended for in fact all the affairs of Holkar's Government were notoriously guided and controlled by him and the ministers of Holkar would never have dared to expel his brother in law excepting as a finesse. As the Rajah spoke this personally I did not think it necessary to ask an explanation of the meaning and object to which His Highness attributed the finesse

34 Nothing further of importance passed

35 I have this day dispatched the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan with merely a few lines from myself by a pair of my own Hircarrahs and a pair of the Rajah's to facilitate their conveyance across the Nerbudda I thought it my duty instantly to apprise the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand of the intentions of Government with regard to Meer Khan in order to prevent any possible danger to the advanced detachment under Captain Lambat Kuckeroutee near the Powie Ghat from any sudden attack which Meer Khan be induced to make upon it if still in that position With the view of gaining a little time for my Hircarrahs I therefore detained the letter until this day but on the other hand considering that the object is to deter Meer Khan if possible, from crossing the Nerbudda I did not think it right to delay longer in dispatching it.

36. Meer Khan by my last accounts was still encamped in person near Jubbulpore, but Shahamat Khan and others of his Chiefs with about 4,000 horse and 4 guns were at Telwarry on the northern bank of the river which is now fordable in several places for horse, though I believe not yet sufficiently so for guns to cross Some arrangement appears to have been made with the Nabob of Bhopal to keep him quiet for the present In the course of tomorrow I shall probably receive fresh intelligence which I shall lose no time in communicating to Colonel Close.

37 I have communicated the contents of this dispatch in a direct address to Colonel Close to whose instructions I shall pay the most implicit reference.

38 The Rajah returned to Nagpur to celebrate the Deshara, but only remained there two days, and I joined him at this place on the 25th instant

Letter No 12—Jenkins reports the death of Rajah's mother and the consequences arising out of it.

FROM—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR
TO—COLONEL B CLOSE.

Camp at Ramtek, the 23rd December 1809

I have the pleasure to enclose copies of Akhbars which arrived last night from the Nerbudda I have heard nothing further of the Pindaries who were said to be at Tauckul Ghat and I am in hopes it was only a false alarm

The death of the Rajah's mother you will have learnt by my dispatch of yesterday She is said to have died very rich, and the first disagreement between the brothers it is expected will break out about the division of the treasure The Rajah last night issued very strict orders to his Chiefs in Camp to be upon their guard, against any treacherous machinations which the Bai's death might cause to be attempted, and some troops have been sent off for the protection and to preserve the peace of the city Everything, however, appears at present quiet but there must be many who having formerly owed their safety from the Rajah's exactions, to the Bai's influence, now tremble for their persons and property

I am to pay my first visit of condolence to the Rajah tomorrow

Letter No. 13—The letter reports that the Rajah of Sirgooja—Balbhadur Shahi—threatens to occupy the pargana of Barwah in the district of Ramgarh

FROM—C LUSHINGTON, ACTING SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM
TO—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William, the 30th January 1810

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed extract from the proceedings of His Excellency the Vice-President in Council in the Judicial Department under date the 19th instant on the subject of the renewed threats of the Rajah of Sirgoojah to occupy by force the pergunnah of Burwah in the district of Ramgarh You will be pleased to explain to the ministers of the Rajah of Berar the impropriety of the conduct of the Rajah of Sirgoojah on this occasion and to request that the most positive orders may be issued to him to refrain from the prosecution of his unfounded claims to the possession of a territory

which unquestionably forms a component part of the British Dominion His Excellency in Council can hardly entertain the supposition that the Rajah of Sirgoojah will endeavour to put his threat into execution of taking possession by force of the pergunnah of Burwah but it may be proper for you to signify to the Court of Nagpur that any attempt on his part to disturb the tranquillity of Burwah will be repelled by the troops of the British Government

2 You will find amongst the records in your possession an unequivocal admission on the part of the Rajah of Berar of the right of the British Government to the pergunnah of Burwah made on the occasion of Lieutenant Colonel Jones's expedition on Sirgoojah in the year 180

Extract from the proceedings of His Excellency the Vice President in Council in the Judicial Department under date the 19th January 1810

TO—GEORGE DOWDESWILL ESQUIRE SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT FORT WILLIAM

SIR

I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Vice President in Council that I have lately received a representation from the Rajah of Nagpur enclosing copy of a letter transmitted to him by Rajah Balbhadur Sahy of Sirgoojah from which it appears that the latter has again revived his pretensions to the Pergunnah of Burwah and threatened to take possession of it

2. On the receipt of this intelligence I immediately dispatched a Parwannah to the Rajah of Sirgoojah requiring him under pain of the severe displeasure of Government to desist from prosecuting his unjust claims on the Pergunnah in question I likewise thought proper to give intimation of the circumstance to Captain Roughsedge and beg leave to enclose a copy of that officer's reply to my address

3 The accompanying copy of Captain Roughsedge's reply places the circumstances of the case in so clear a light that I have nothing to state in addition thereto and I trust that the measures adopted by that gentleman as alluded to in his addresses to Mr Jenkins and to Mr Lushington under date the 4th instant, and likewise the receipt of my Parwana will induce the Rajah of Sirgoojah to desist from any attempt to gain possession of the Pergunnah of Burwah by violent means.

4. As Captain Roughsedge has already transmitted to Mr. Lushington, copy of the letter addressed by the Rajah of Nagpur deemed it unnecessary to accompany this letter with a translation thereof

Zillah Ramgarh
13th January 1810

Rd WALPOLE,
Acting Magistrate

To—R WALPOLE, ESQUIRE, ACTING MAGISTRATE,
ZILLAH RAMGURH

SIR,

I was in the act of addressing you on the subject of the removal of the Rajah of Sirgoojah's claim to the Pergunnah of Burwah when I was honoured with the receipt of your dispatch of the 8th instant

2 The circumstances had been communicated to me by Rajah Govindnath Sahy and I have the pleasure to enclose copies of my letters to the Resident at the Court of Berar and Mr Secretary Lushington, which in addition to the judicious step adopted by you of addressing a Perwannah, to Rajah Balbhadur Sahy will I doubt not have the effect of putting an immediate stop to the prosecution of that . . . claim to the Pergunnah of Burwah

3 The assertions of Rajah Govindnath Sahy as to the utter inefficiency of the police in Burwah are very true, the authority of Government has never been established in that district, and on consulting the Records of your Court I believe it will be found, that complaints more or less serious have been exhibited against all its principal inhabitants

4 I am credibly informed that Jaimangal Sahy, Pradhan of . . . and Ferenghee Barraick of Beergong - in particular within the last month sent Vakeels to Sirgoojah Nagar for the purpose. If in . . . Rajah Balbhadur Sahy to assert his pretensions to Burwah from which step has in all probability resulted the letter received by Rajah Govindnath Sahy The Pergunnah of Burwah is so strong by nature and affords such facilities from its vicinity to Sirgoojah for the escape of criminals that I see no chance of the due establishment of the authority of Government there unless a severe example is made of two or three of the most refractory Zamindars which cannot be accomplished without the co-operation of the Rajah of Sirgoojah, or an eventual pursuit of them into his country

Hazaribagh
January 9th, 1810.

E ROUGHSEGE,
Captain, Commanding Ramgarh Battalion.

Letter No 14—This is an important letter Edmonstone explains that since the scheme of establishing a subsidiary force on the Nerbudda within Bhonsla's territories has not been accepted by Bhonsla an accommodation may be effected with the Nawab of Bhopal

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—COLONEL B CLOSL

Fort St George the 7th February 1810

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the dates noted in the margin and to convey to you such observations in addition to those contained in my letter of the 12th instant as the progress of events and your recent communications appear to require

2 The circumstances of a nature to affect our proceedings which have come to the knowledge of the Governor-General since the dispatch of his instructions of the 1st instant are the Nabob of Bhopal's transmission to you of overtures of submission and the decided refusal of the Rajah of Nagpur to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions on any terms

3 His Lordship's instructions of the 1st instant left you at liberty under certain reservations either to accede to an accommodation with the Nabob of Bhopal involving a pacification between him and the Rajah of Nagpur or to dispossess him of his territory Those instructions were issued under an expectation that the Rajah of Nagpur might possibly be induced to accede to a subsidiary arrangement This being no longer a question your measures must be regulated without reference to that contingency The field of optional arrangements is now much narrower since the security of such as might be our guarantee depended upon the permanent establishment of a British force to the northward of the Nerbudda Without that our guarantee would eventually be in the highest degree burdensome and inconvenient and cannot be admitted The circumstance appears to preclude the expediency of our mediation between the Nabob of Bhopal because such a mediation almost necessarily involves a guarantee

4 The Governor-General is of opinion that notwithstanding the latitude of action allowed to you by his instructions of the 12th instant you will not, under the Nabob of Bhopal's direct overtures of submission have judged it proper to proceed to effect the conquest of Bhopal without specific directions issued after his Lordship's receipt of your dispatches of the 31st ultimo in which you referred to his consideration the Nabob's letter to your address, his Lordship rather concludes it to be probable that you will set on foot a negotiation with the Nabob of Bhopal according to the suggestions contained in my letter of the 12th instant the duration of which, as it would involve a communication with the Rajah

of Nagpur, will probably admit of your receiving the present dispatch in time to enable you to modify or abandon your ulterior proceedings

5 Under these suppositions I have now the honour to communicate to you His Lordship's sentiments with regard to the arrangements which with a view to the early termination of the campaign and the cantonment of the troops it may be practicable and expedient to pursue

6 Under the change of circumstances to which I have adverted the Governor-General excludes from contemplation, the conquest of Bhopal and the adjustment of any terms of accommodation between the Rajah and the Nabob of Bhopal, by the means of our mediation and guarantee. It only remains to decide what terms of accommodation between the Nabob of Bhopal and the British Government shall be exacted and to what extent the Military operations shall be carried

7 Adverting to the active support and assistance afforded by the Nabob of Bhopal to Amir Khan after the latter had placed himself in a condition of hostility towards the British Government, His Lordship is decidedly of opinion that he should be subjected to some tributary demands one of which should obviously be the immediate and unconditional surrender of whatever places belonging to the Rajah of Nagpur, he may have occupied in concert with Amir Khan. It has occurred to His Lordship that the payment of a sum of money as a compensation in part of the expenses of the campaign might justly be rendered the subject of a second article of demand. This point however is left entirely to your discretion, to be regulated by the resources of the Nabob and by local circumstances of all which you must be the most competent judge. In addition to these demands, such obligations connected with the absolute separation of the Nabob's interests from those of Amir Khan's and the exclusion of the Pindaries from Bhopal, as you may deem advantageous and advisable might be exacted from the Nabob, together with any practicable security for the adherence to his engagements. His compliance with these demands must of course be declared to be the condition of our forbearance from the prosecution of hostilities against him

8 With regard to the extent to which Military operations should be carried I am directed to state the following observations

9 His Lordship concludes that you will have carried into effect your intention of acting against Seronge and against the accessible holds of the Pindaries in Bhopal. His Lordship concurs with you in the expediency of delivering over Seronge to any person duly appointed on the part of Holkar's Government to receive charge of it. His Lordship however deems it advisable to require from that Government as the condition of its delivery an engagement that Seronge should not at any future time be allowed to revert to the possession of Amir Khan, although the Governor-

General is aware that this stipulation may be rendered abortive by a revolution which should place the management of Holkar's affairs once more under the control of Amur Khan

10 The prosecution of hostilities against the Pindaries to the extent which you have described appears to His Lordship to be highly expedient but it is not the intention of the Governor General that you should consider the pursuit of that predatory substantive object of your operations to a degree to protract the period of the return of the troops into Cantonments

11 When the purposes herein described shall have been accomplished the Governor General expects that no further

will exist for detaining the troops in the field and that the Corps which have advanced from Bundelland may be remanded to that province and the force under your personal command may return within the limits of the province of Berar With reference to this event therefore His Lordship requests to be favoured with your opinion regarding the detail of the arrangement which in consequence of the Rajah of Nagpur's refusal to admit of the establishment of a British force within his dominions it would be advisable to adopt on Military principles for the permanent security of those territories which we are bound to protect to the southward of the Nerbudda

1 Instructions will be immediately transmitted to the Acting Resident at Nagpur directing him to abstain from any further effort to obtain the Rajah's consent to the establishment of a British force within his dominions

Letter No 15.—Edmonstone indicates the motives of establishing a permanent subsidiary force on the Nerbudda within Bhonsla's territories

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—GREME MLR CER RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Fort St. George the 13th February 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos. 1 and 2 dated the 3rd and 15th ultimo the information contained in which is entirely satisfactory to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General

2 I am further instructed to apprise you that a negotiation has been instituted for the permanent establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda, within the territories of the Rajah of Nagpur The object of this proposed arrangement is to form a line of defence by connecting posts throughout the frontier of the Deccan to Bundelkhand If this arrangement should take effect

a part of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force will probably be stationed at Amraoti on the eastern confines of the province of Berar and the force on the Nerbudda may probably be stationed in the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore which will then form a point of connection between Bundelkhand and Berar, and prove an effectual barrier against the invasions to the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions or those of the Nizam. This arrangement does not necessarily involve the conclusion of the engagements with the Rajah of Nagpur, similar to those subsisting with the Peshwa and Nizam, but it will impose upon the British Government obligation to protect his territories from exterior attack

3 Considerable doubt is entertained of the Rajah of Nagpur's consent to the establishment of a British force within his dominions on any terms although it is not altogether . that the menaces of Amir Khan who has intimated his resolution to . his designs against the state of Nagpur at a future opportunity, may induce the Rajah to acquiesce in a measure which will permanently remove the danger

4 The object of this communication is to desire that you will report your opinion founded on your knowledge of the character and disposition of Sindhia, and of the relation in which he considers himself to stand with respect to the Rajah of Nagpur, what effects the proposed arrangement is likely to produce on his mind and whether it is calculated to interfere with any claims which Sindhia may consider himself to have on the Rajah or with any political views which he may entertain with respect to the state of Nagpur

Letter No 16.—The enclosures 1 and 2 to this letter are important, inasmuch as they contain instructions of the Governor-General to Colonel Close to withdraw the British troops, hand over Sironj to the Holkar's Government, and have the Bhonsla to mediate with the Nawab of Bhopal. Enclosure 2 is omitted because it is extremely mutilated.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort St George, the 8th March 1810

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of instructions issued under His Lordship's authority to Colonel Close on the 2nd instant, together with copies of the letter to the address of the Resident at the Court of Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and of its enclosure,

to COLONEL CLOSI

Sir

Having drawn up in the form of a memorandum which was intended to form the bases of regular instructions what I have collected of the Governor-General's view and sentiments regarding the intricacies of our present position relatively to the Rajah of Nagpur Amir Khan and the Nabob of Bhopal His Lordship has directed me with a view to put you in possession of his detailed reflections on the various questions which he has considered to transmit to you a copy of that memorandum. You will find that the suggestions contained in it which are deduced from the communications which I have had the honour to hold with His Lordship have been adopted and converted into official instructions with certain modifications.

His Lordship conceives that to mediate an adjustment of differences between the Rajah and the Nabob even if it were practicable without our guarantee would be attended with no advantage and that to afford our guarantee without maintaining a force to the northward of the Nerbudda is inadmissible. His Lordship therefore deems it sufficient to exact from the Nabob of Bhopal what may operate as a punishment to him and advantageous for us leaving the Rajah to act as he thinks proper with regard to Bhopal.

His Lordship is anxious not to be drawn into an extensive field of operation the Pindaries. He is desirous of considering any operations against them as a collateral rather than a direct object of our proceedings and to close the campaign with the accomplishment of those purposes which is described in his present instructions appear to His Lordship to be of sufficient importance to support the credit of our exertions in the cause of the Rajah of Nagpur not only the retreat of Amir Khan the occupation of Seronge and its delivery to Holkar the submission of the Nabob of Bhopal on the terms prescribed and the expulsion of the Pindaries from their principal hold in that country.

The Rajah of Nagpur's consent to the permanent establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda would have admitted as other and more beneficial arrangement. That important object being unattainable, his Lordship is anxious to withdraw our troops from the field at the earliest practicable moment consistent with our credit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort St. George
22nd February 1810

N B EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Govt

Letter No 17—This letter and its enclosure which is an address to the Bhonsla, explain the motives of the British Government in undertaking the military operations against Amir Khan and indicate its disappointment at the Bhonsla's failure to agree to the arrangement suggested by the Governor-General for the future safety of his own territories

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort St George, the 26th March 1810

By direction of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General I have now the honour to transmit, His Lordship's replies to the letters from His Highness the Rajah, and his Ministers enclosed in your dispatch of the 24th ultimo together with copies for your information

2 The Rajah's studious omission of all acknowledgement for the essential aid which he derived from the protection of the British power under circumstances which menaced the subversion of his Government, and his corresponding exaggeration of the prowess and effect of his arms in compelling the retreat of Amir Khan, are highly offensive and disgusting with reference not only to his want of candour and misrepresentation of facts, but also to the motives of jealousy and suspicion which in addition to the instigations of an overweening pride, have evidently dictated the tenor of his address to the Governor-General

3 His Lordship deeming it by no means advisable that the British Government should be supposed to acquiesce in so gross a mis-statement of facts, and in so offensive a disavowal of the obligations which the Rajah owes to the British Government for its gratuitous and liberal exertions in his favour, in the utmost exigency of his affairs has thought proper in his reply to the Rajah's letter to refute his assumption, and to claim the credit which is due to the important and reasonable relief afforded to him by the interposition of our protecting power

4 You will be pleased to accompany the delivery of the letters with such an additional detail of circumstances as may appear to you to be necessary, not so much to demonstrate a fact of the truth of which the Rajah must be perfectly conscious, as to expose the fallacy of his assumptions, and to vindicate the credit of our Arms, and the merits of our liberality by depriving His Highness of every pretext for withholding the acknowledgments so justly due for the benefits which he has derived from our assistance, and for the motives which induced the British Government to afford it, without any demand of compensation for the heavy charge and inconvenience attending it

5 You will be careful at the same time to abstain from the language of irritation and to convey your representation of facts to His Highness in terms of dignity, mildness and friendship and especially to preclude any opposition on the part of the Rajah that either the Rajah's uncrandid and ungenerous conduct on this occasion or his refusal to concur in the plan proposed for the permanent defence of his dominion has produced in the mind of the Governor General any sentiment of ill will or diminished his Lordship's latitude to maintain as heretofore the relations of cordiality and confidence with the state of Nagpur.

6 I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your dispatches of the date noted in the margin

TO RAJAH RACHOJI BHONSLE

Written 26th March 1810

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter (Recapitulates that received 8th March).

In my letter to your Highness of the 31st December I had the satisfaction to congratulate you on the success which forms the subject of your Highness's present letter. I have only again to assure you that the success of your Highness's Army will always afford me the greatest pleasure.

Your Highness however having ascribed exclusively to that success the retreat of Amir Khan from your territories and appearing entirely to overlook the essential aid afforded to you by the British troops which at a moment of extreme peril advanced for the protection of your country and compelled the enemy to abandon his designs without any compensation being demanded by the British Government for the heavy charge and inconvenience attending this exertion justice requires that I should advert to the circumstances of this event.

It will be in the recollection of your Highness that after the action to which your letter alludes and which took place on the 7th of December or 7th of Shuwal Amir Khan instead of retreating from your Highness's territories again crossed the Nerbudda and remained to the southward of that river within a short distance of your Army which occupied a position inaccessible to the attack of Cavalry until the 7th of January or 30th of Zekodya, when he commenced his retreat without any movement on the part of your Highness's troops which continued merely on the defensive surrounded by the Pindaries who succeeded in cutting off their supplies and exposed them to great distress. In this situation nothing could have opposed the further advance of Amir Khan into your Highness's territory. But at that time the detachment under the command of Colonel Close was at Pandhurna and the British troops had commenced their march from

Bundelkhand By advancing, Amu Khan would have incurred the danger of being attacked in point by the detachment under Colonel Close and his retreat would have been cut off by the Army of Bundelkhand He was equally exposed to danger from the combined movements of the two British Detachment by continuing in his position south of the Nerbudda He had therefore no alternative but to retreat before either of those Detachments could intercept his route He accordingly began to retire two days after Colonel Close commenced his march from Pandhurna and five days before the advance of the troops of Bundelkhand from Chatterpore

These circumstances alone are sufficient to show that the retreat of Amu Khan is to be ascribed exclusively to the movements of the British troops But this motive of his retreat is acknowledged by Amu Khan himself in his letter to your Highness's Minister Shridhai Pandit dated the 1st January or 1st of Zelhedj in which after describing his conception of the imprudence of calling in British troops to your Highness's aid he declares his inability to meet them in the field and his consequent resolution to retire and in the same letter he declares that although this compelled at present to retreat he will never abstain from hostilities against your Highness until the money which Sadik Ali Khan consented to pay to Amu Khan shall have been discharged Amu Khan has also made the same acknowledgment in his letters to Colonel Close and to me written about the same period of time It is, therefore, most evident that your Highness's relief from the danger which menaced your dominion is to be attributed entirely to the advance of the British troops

I was anxious to provide a permanent security against the return of a similar danger by the arrangement which was lately proposed to your Highness But that arrangement not having met with your Highness's concurrence and the object of the exertions of the British Government in your Highness's favour having happily been accomplished by the retreat of Amu Khan beyond Seionge, the British troops will now be withdrawn

Although I must regret that the successful and gratuitous exertions of the British Government have not made a just impression on your Highness's mind yet I reflect with high satisfaction on the success of those exertions and on the opportunity which has thus been afforded me of manifesting my sincere solicitude for your Highness's prosperity

For further particulars I refer you to the verbal communications of Mr Jenkins

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government

Letter No 18—Colonel Close suggests the military arrangements that have to be made if the application from the Bhonsla for a British force to be stationed in his territories north of the Nerbudda were granted

FROM COLONEL B CLOSE

TO RICHARD JINKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Camp near Hoshangabad 26th March 1810

I have the honour to forward open duplicate of my dispatch of yesterday's date to Mr Secretary Edmonstone which I request you will send on after perusal

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

SIR

I have the honour to submit the ideas on the presumption that the application from His Highness the Rajah of Nagpur for a British force will be acquiesced in and that the force is to be of the strength and description stated in the overtures of the Right Honble the Governor-General formerly communicated to the Rajah viz. a Regiment of Native Cavalry a company of Foot Artillery 4 Battalions of Native Infantry a suitable proportion of ordnance and a detail of Pioneers

On this subject I take it for granted that for the present at least the force destined for Jubbulpore will be composed of Coast Troops to be furnished from the Corps remaining there under the immediate command and further adopt it as a satisfactory principle that it must be always more convenient to support a subsidiary force by the troops of another subsidiary force than by those taken from stations in the Company's territories

As the measure accommodating the Rajah of Nagpur with a British force to be stationed as already noticed will have an influence then in the disposal of the Subsidiary forces of Hyderabad and Poona it will be expedient to consider the force at Jubbulpore, as a link of a chain of cantonments stretching from the Nerbudda to Poona which connects conveniently with the Presidency of Bombay the several cantonments being so situated as to support each other when necessary practicable convenience.

As the force proposed for Jubbulpore is evidently small I may conclude that not intended and cannot be advised to consider any proportion of that force as make a part of the Hyderabad force, so as to lessen the number of Native Infantry Corps of the latter to be stationed at its Headquarters

According to these promises, the Jubbulpore force would be chiefly composed of corps lately destined to form a part of the Hyderabad force, and most of the Corps destined by the last distribution of the Army for stations to the westward and southward from a part of the latter

From the change of political circumstances, to be necessarily occasioned, by the stationing of a British force on the Nerbudda, it will appear expedient that the Hyderabad force should be augmented by a Regiment of Dragoons, and that the Native Battalion lately added to the Poona force should be considered as permanently included on its strength. Thus the force at Jubbulpore would consist of the 4th Regiment Cavalry, 2nd Battalion, 7th Bn, 9th Bn, 10 and 1st Bns, 20 Regt N I. The detail of the Battalion Pioneers now in the Deccan above the establishment of the Hyderabad Subsidiary force, the Company for Jubbulpore must be taken from this detachment to be replaced for the present by the one taken from the Company's of the Royals at Hyderabad and His Majesty's 34th Regiment in the headquarters of the Hyderabad force, the Horse Artillery, the 2nd Dragoons, 7th and 8th Regiments Native Cavalry remaining company of foot artillery, H M 34th Regiment, the 2nd Battalion 5th, 1st Bn 12th, 1st Battalion 16th, 2nd battalion, 17th Regiment Native Infantry and the Pioneers now attached to the force

At the headquarters of the Pioneer Subsidiary force, a Regiment of Native Cavalry a proportion of Foot Artillery, 4 Battalions of Native Infantry, and a company of Pioneers. At Poona of 3 Battalions of Native Infantry furnishing the necessary details for Seior, Ahmednagar, etc

It is proposed that the Headquarters of the Hyderabad force should be at a position on the Wardha to the Eastward of Ellichpore and the Headquarters of the Poona force at Jalna

By this disposition there would be a chain of cantonments from Bombay to the Nerbudda, a line which is deemed to be preferable, to any which could be established between Fort St George, or any principal station in the Karnatic and the Nerbudda by the route of

with which however Headquarters of both forces would not necessarily By advancing of the Hyderabad force from Amiaoti to the point before mentioned distance between Jubbulpore and Jalna will be more equally divided, and should it be requisite to reinforce the troops at Jubbulpore by the whole of the force on the Wardha, Berar in its absence would be protected by the troops at Jalna, which if necessary might be reinforced by the 5 companies of the Royals at Hyderabad. When the troops on the Wardha should join those at Jubbulpore, the combined force at the latter station would consist of the Horse Artillery, one Regiment of Dragoons, 3 Regts of Native Cavalry,

the greater part of 2 companies of Artillery reinforced by men from the European Infantry trained to the Gun exercise 1 Regiment European Infantry 8 Battalions of Native Infantry and nearly 3 Companies of Pioneers a body sufficiently powerful to act offensively for any purpose even without being reinforced from Bundelkhand According to this system of arrangement the 1st and 2nd Regiment of Native Cavalry could be desirable to complete the proposed arrangement for Jubbulpore without delay I am induced to use the freedom of mentioning these officers of the troops here whom I consider as qualified to fill the command of the staff situations belonging to the Corps in question

For the command of the Jubbulpore Subsidiary force I would suggest Col Irton for the office of Assistant Adjutant-General Captain Taylor of the 10th N I now Major of Brigade to Lt-Col Irton For the situation of the Assistant Quarter Master General Lt John Law of the Military Survey Institution For that of Persian interpreter Lt Morgan of the 1st Bn 2nd Regiment To be Paymaster Commissary and Agent for Hired Cattle Major P Nansagnew To be commissary of stores Captain Weldon of Artillery To be Superintendent Surgeon Mr Gilmsars who now fills that situation in this Army To be Engineer Captain Johnson of H M 34th Regiment who has been educated in that line To be

The departments for the Jubbulpore force to be formed from those of the Army by a transfer of the portions now surplus to the fixed establishment of the Hyderabad force.

The extent of the different departments to be kept up with the Jubbulpore force I shall proceed to fix if honoured with authority for the purpose

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Camp near Hoshangabad
25th March 1810

B CLOSE,
Colonel

Letter No 19.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla had agreed to the stationing of a British force on the Nerbudda.

FROM—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE.

Nagpur the 27th March 1810

I am favoured with your private letters of 21st and 22nd of March and today learn by your official dispatch of the 23rd that you have determined to await the result of a reference to the Governor-General on the subject of the Rajah's offers in your present position

I could by no means have expected that the negotiation would so soon have come to a mature point but the details of my conferences in my last letter to the Governor-General will have shown you that the Rajah was as desirous as I could be to conclude matters. There is no doubt I conceive that the Rajah has now given himself up entirely to us, and I think there are few articles of subsidiary treaty which would now startle him.

It is a fortunate circumstance that you have been enabled to leave things in the same state with regard to Bhopal as they were before the mediation. The Rajah does not seem to think that even should we not directly operate against the Nabob, he would have much difficulty, in taking the country provided no foreign interference were allowed by us on the part of Meer Khan, and the Pindaries. The idea however of the Rajah having a subsidiary force and of our not directly interfering in the affairs of Bhopal, seem to me to be incompatible.

Letter No 20.—The statement of accounts is revealing inasmuch as it shows what amount of pensions used to be paid to the Rajah's ministers by the British

FROM—H WOOD, ACTING CIVIL AUDITOR, FORT WILLIAM

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William, the 28th March 1810

I request you will be pleased to furnish receipts for the under-mentioned charges made in your accounts for October, November and December 1809—

	Amount		
	Rs	a	p
In October 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr Elphinstone's salary	2,859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary	750	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary	680	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon	260	0	0
Pensions			
Shridhar Pandit from 1st July to 31st December 1809	16,000	0	0
Jeswant Rao and Jaikishan Pandit from 1st January to 31st December 1809	21,000	0	0
In November 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr Elphinstone's salary	2,859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary	750	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary	680	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon	260	0	0
In December 1809—			
Salaries			
Mr Elphinstone's salary	2,859	3	0
Lieutenant Close's salary	750	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's pay and salary	680	0	0
Mr Surgeon Gordon's salary and establishment as Vaccinating Surgeon.	260	0	0

Letter No 21.—The letter authorizes Colonel Close to resume his withdrawal until definite proposals from the Bhonsla regarding the permanent establishment of a Subsidiary force on the Nerbudda have not been accepted by the Governor General and he was not apprized of the decision of the Governor General about it.

FROM—N B EDMONSTON SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE

Fort St George the 2nd April 1812.

SIR

The Right Honble the Governor General has received from the Acting Resident at Nagpur a copy of his letter to your address dated the 30th ultimo apprising you of the Rajah's conditional proposition for the permanent establishment of a British force within his territories north of the Nerbudda and in consequence submitting to your consideration the suspension of the march of the whole or a part of your force to the Southward until the Governor-General's determination relative to the acceptance or rejection of that proposition shall be known. His Lordship has also received the Acting Resident's dispatch No 13 dated the 21st ultimo reporting the details of his conferences with the Court of Nagpur on that subject.

2. The circumstances under which this proposition has now been brought forward the motives and objects which have suggested it and the necessity of previously adjusting various subordinate but essential points by discussions with the Rajah of which the issue must be doubtful render an immediate decision impracticable. No adequate motive exists for incurring the expense of keeping a part of the Troops under your command in the field until the question can be determined and to authorize the return of that portion of the troops which should compose the auxiliary force, into the Rajah's territory north of the Nerbudda when the final establishment of any force in that quarter is a subject of negotiation and therefore of doubt is obviously objectionable in points of view.

3. For these reasons it is thought of the Governor-General that in the event of your having suspended the progress of the whole or any part of the force under your command on its return to Berar in consequence of the communication contained in the Acting Resident's letter of the 20th ultimo its march should be resumed and the distribution authorized by the Governor-General's instructions of the 30th ultimo should be carried into effect. If the pending negotiation should terminate in the acceptance of the Rajah's proposition the necessary arrangements will be adopted for stationing the requisite force within the Rajah's Northern territories after the expiration of the rainy season.

4 A copy of my letter of this date to the Acting Resident at Nagpur on the subject of this dispatch is enclosed for your information

Letter No. 22 —The Bhonsla is informed that since he refused to acquiesce in the original defensive arrangements, the troops had been withdrawn from forward positions to their quarters.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA, NAGPUR

Fort St George, the 10th April 1810

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness's letter (Recapitulate that received 4th April)

The proposition which your Highness recites as having been received by you from Mr Jenkins for the security of your frontier against external attack was conveyed to your Highness as I intimated in my last letter by my direction at the time the British troops were advancing for the expulsion of the enemy. Your Highness however having stated your sentiments on that proposition, in a manner to preclude all hope of your being induced to concur in it, the British troops after having compelled the enemy to retreat from the frontier of your Highness's dominions, which was the object of their taking the field returned towards their usual stations and the Army from Bundelkhand had reached that province, and that under the personal command of Colonel Close had recrossed the Nerbudda when your Highness departing from your original resolution signified your consent to the establishment of a British force to the northward of the Nerbudda, for the protection of your country intimating however that your Highness would not be disposed to bear any part of the expence attending that arrangement

My original proposition, as your Highness was informed, formed a part of an extensive plan for the general defence of the Deccan and of your Highness's Northern territories, and involved various arrangements relative to the position of troops from Bundelkhand to Khandesh as well as the adjustment of many points of detail with your Highness, connected with that part of the British forces which in pursuit of the general plan, was proposed to be stationed within your Highness's territory. If your Highness had concurred in this beneficial plan when it was first proposed to you there would have been full time to determine these arrangements and to settle all matters of detail with your Highness before the completion of the service in which the British troops were engaged. The force destined to remain in your Highness's territories might

have occupied its appointed station and the rest on the return to Berar and Bundelkhand might have taken up the position which the object of the general plan might render necessary

Your Highness however being unwilling to admit the establishment of a British force within your dominions the plan was necessarily abandoned and the time for the formation of all the requisite arrangements and the adjustment of all points of detail connected with the establishment of the British troops within in your territory was lost

To station them in the country north of the Nerbudda without the previous formation of these arrangements and the previous adjustment of all that relates to their position to their subsistence to the services they would be expected to perform, and various other points would be inconsistent with the maxims of wisdom and prudence and to detain them in advance with all their field equipments until all these arrangements and questions should be determined would occasion a great addition to the heavy expence which the British Government has already incurred in providing for the security of your Highness's dominion from the danger under which it was menaced

Your Highness will therefore be sensible of the necessity of the troops continuing their march to their ordinary stations for the purpose of being placed in cantonments during the ensuing hot and rainy seasons

In the meantime I shall resume the consideration of the general plan of defensive arrangement and as soon as may be practicable I shall instruct Mr Jenkins to communicate to your Highness the various points the adjustment of which is inseparably connected with the establishment of a British force within your territory for its protection and everything being previously settled and prepared the troops can commence the march and assume their appointed station to the Northward of the Nerbudda after the expiration of the rainy season (The same to the ministers)

Letter No 23—This letter including the two enclosures are important. Vazeer Mohammed has been directed to send his agents direct to the Bhonsla for the settlement of differences between them and Jenkins is desired to mediate. The enclosure No 1 containing the memorandum of Vazeer Mohammed throws light on the relations subsisting between the Bhonsla and Vazeer Mohammed.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—R. JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William the 7th July 1810

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy and translation of a letter to the address of the

Right Hon'ble the Governor-General from Vazeer Mohammed Khan, the Chief of Bhopal, together with His Lordship's reply to that letter which you will be pleased to forward to him, and a copy and translation for your perusal

2. You are at liberty to communicate these documents to the Rajah's ministers if you should judge proper

3. If Vazeer Mohammed Khan should dispatch a Vakeel to Nagpur for the adjustment of the differences with the Rajah, His Lordship-in-Council is of opinion that you might with propriety interfere your mediation for the adjustment of them on the terms before ineffectually proposed by Colonel Close, observing the same caution not to pledge the guarantee of the British Government to any articles of accommodation that may eventually be concluded

—

FROM—VAZEER MOHAMMED KHAN, NABOB OF
BHOPAL

Received 1st July 1810

For a period of thirty years I have manifested my attachment and devotion to the British Government in the persons of its officers, and rendered it every service in my power, in the hope of acquiring increased consequence and distinction, and of securing protection against the oppressions of the rulers of the present age, who not only hold my feeble Government in contempt and desire its ruin, but are actually employing their endeavours to annihilate it

Hence Colonel Goddard and the Nabob Roshanood Dowlah most readily executed an engagement, promising me the support, and protection of the British Government whenever its authority should be established in this quarter. This fact must be perfectly well known to your Lordship

From the moment however that I formed a connection with the British Government, I became the object of the envy and jealousy of all the Southern chiefs who in consequence sought to distress and harrass me by every means in their power

Rajah Semapath (Raghojee Bhonsla) seized the fortresses of Hoshangabad and Seoni and three years ago wrested from my possession, Baree and Choukigarh, while Dowlat Rao Sindhia seized the forts of Islamnagar, Suhwauss and Ramgarh and plundered my territory and even the place of my residence. Having no alternative I attended by all my family and adherents abandoned my home, passed the four months of the rainy season on the bank of the Nerbudda, in the fixed determination to risk my head for the recovery of my lands

The troops of Rajah Seempath having carried off my son Mooz Mohd Khan at twelve years of age from my house in captivity I resolved in the first instance to negotiate his release and afterwards to obtain the restitution of Barree and Choukigarh Accordingly Rajah Raghjee Bhonsla restored my son Mooz Mohammed Khan to me He at the same time executed a deed of release for all the lands which he had wrested from my possession that is to say Seem Hoshangabad Barree and Choukigarh But the Raja's officers withheld the deed and kept it to themselves

While I was thus employed in endeavouring to recover my lands from the hands of the usurpers Meer Khan without any invitation from me and without any necessity arrived at Jubbulpore at the Ghur where I had taken up my quarters I earnestly dissuaded Meer Khan from the prosecution of his wicked proceedings and when I found that it was his fixed determination to excite disturbance and commotion I separated from him and proceeded to the execution of my purpose of regaining possession of Barree and Choukigarh About this time Colonel Close arrived and required me to give up the Taluk of Barree and the fort of Choukigarh on the ground of this delinquency that I had retaken them during the period of the disturbance and trouble excited by Meer Khan and he had the kindness to promise thus much that he would effect an adjustment of our differences according to the principles of equity and justice and procure the release of my lands

Although this was just yet in obedience to Colonel Close and a lapse of forty years in consequence of my demur on my part I immediately furnished the Raja's officers with letter to my Aumils directing them to retire from the lands

Colonel Close having since had an opportunity of enquiring into the nature of the offences with which I was charged is now disposed to manifest the greatest consideration towards me but the Raja's officers are not inclined to attend to his suggestions. I therefore hope that your Lordship adverting to the relative situation of authority and dependance between your Lordship and me will be pleased to adopt such an equitable arrangement as that by the justice and support of the British Government I may be protected against the encroachments and violence of Maha Rajah Sindhia and Rajah Raghjee Bhonsla, who violating former engagements practice tyranny and oppression and plunder and destroy the houses of the poor which will command my gratitude to your Lordship and my prayers for the prosperity of the British Government with the most ardent devotion to its service.

A true translation

J MONCKTON

Persian Secretary to Government.

TO—VAZEEH MOHAMMED KHAN

Written 7th July 1810.

I have been favoured with your letter (recapitulate that received 1st July)

With regard to the engagements to which you refer I long since issued instructions to the Magistrate of Allahabad respecting the answer to be returned to the letter which you addressed to him on that subject and you have no doubt received it

The communications which you had with Colonel Close through your Vakeel, when that officer was in the neighbourhood of Bhopal preclude the necessity of any discussion of the transactions of that period. Colonel Close endeavoured under my directions to effect an accommodation between you and the Maharajah Raghojee Bhonsla, but his endeavours failed of success from causes with which you are fully acquainted

The Maharajah is master in his own dominions and the British Government has no right to control his proceedings. If you are desirous of adjusting your differences with the Maharajah, I would recommend your dispatching a Vakeel for that purpose to Nagpur and in that event the British Resident at His Highness's Court will be authorized to assist in bringing those differences to a favourable adjustment on the terms proposed to you by Colonel Close, as I am sincerely desirous of your welfare

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government

Letter No 24—This letter contains as enclosure a copy of the memorandum containing the views of the Governor-General regarding the establishment of a British force in the territories of the Bhonsla, and the motives of the Bhonsla in agreeing to this proposal. It is a fine document of diplomatic importance

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, CAMP MADRAS

TO—R JENKINS ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Madras, the 14th April 1810

As it may be useful that you should know from the memo of 3rd April of His Lordship's mind relative to the Rajah's late overtures, I transmit to you the enclosed memo in the general view of the subject then taken, His Lordship concurs in haste

Memorandum dated the 3rd April 1810

The disposition of mind in which the Rajah of Nagpur has at length consented to the establishment of a British force within his territories and the motives and objects of his acquiescence demand consideration. As a general and fundamental principle it will be admitted that two parties concurring in the same arrangement should concur in the views and purposes to which it is directed. That they should enter upon it with corresponding dispositions or to state the case negatively that they should not propose from its adoption different and irreconcilable objects nor in acceding to it be governed by motives not only different but incompatible and by sentiments and dispositions opposite in their nature and contradictory in their operations and effects.

Although fully aware of the Rajah's reluctance to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions we entertained a hope that the manifest advantage of it would induce him to acquiesce in it. That is we expected that he would be led to concur in all the declared purposes of the arrangement and to favour the operation of it in a manner calculated to accomplish those purposes. All the arguments employed to produce this train of sentiment in his mind failed of success. He considered protection on our part in the form in which it was offered to be dependence on his. He desired the benefit of the former without the humiliation of the latter and judging from past transactions that our own interests would lead us to afford him this protection in even future crisis of danger he expected to secure the benefit of it without any corresponding concession. As this expectation was unquestionably the motive of his refusal to admit the establishment of a British force within his dominions so his present acquiescence is to be ascribed exclusively to an apprehension that this expectation is erroneous and by a reluctant partial jealous and guarded acquiescence in the insulated proposition for the establishment of a British force within his territories he now hopes to secure it. He merely wishes to impose upon us an obligation to protect him against future danger and to employ our troops as auxiliaries for the aggrandizement of his dominion. It is no part of his object to concur in a wise and provident system of defensive arrangement founded on the basis of common interest and common views. The plan which we proposed is not in the slightest degree recommended to him by the facilities which it will afford to the operations of defence. He would infinitely prefer a simple declaration that we would not suffer his dominion to be subverted combined with the return of our troops to their ordinary stations although the difficulties of employing the requisite exertion in the hour of danger should thereby be multiplied ten fold. He consents therefore to the mere admission of our troops into his territory not because it is the best arrangement for his protection and for the general defence of the Deccan but because he conceives that our protection in a season of eventual danger cannot otherwise be secured. He is not consequently prepared to

contribute to the efficiency of that arrangement by granting the privileges and advantages which are necessary to render it efficient, such for instance as the liberty of moving the force in any direction a free passage for detachments intended for its relief or supply a privilege of drawing supplies from any part of his territories and all the varieties of accommodation which a state sensible of the benefit arising from the presence of a protecting force would be forward to afford. It is to him an object of jealousy and apprehension. Every movement, every demand connected with the arrangement will be received with suspicion and alarm.

Ought we then without any previous stipulations, either positive with regard to the privileges and liberties which should be annexed to the establishment of a protecting force within the Rajah's territory or negative with respect to the services on which the troops may be employed and to the restrictions upon his conduct towards other states, to which under a system of what may be termed protective alliance he ought to be subjected, in a word without previously coming to a mutual understanding with regard to the former objects and conditions of this new connection, instantly to accept this forced and jealous invitation leaving the adjustment of all subordinate points to future negotiation? The answer is that rather than part with our protection the Rajah will be induced to accept the terms which we may propose to him. That by immediately stationing our troops on his frontier we do not commit ourselves to the arrangement since it will always be at our option to withdraw them if he refuses to agree to necessary terms. That if we fail to take advantage of the Rajah's present disposition to admit a British force the opportunity may be lost. The course of events may remove the Rajah's present sense of danger and jealousy of his independance again take the lead in his mind. That the force proposed to be stationed to the northward of the Nerbudda will be sufficiently strong to overcome any that can be brought against it and that there will always be time to add to it if necessary for its security either from Bundelkhand or Berar. That the grand object is to plant a force in that situation when once stationed there the Rajah will feel the benefit of its presence will become accustomed to it and reconciled to it by finding that in reality his independance is not affected by it that he will gradually fall into that state of dependance in which the Nizam and Peshwa are placed and which is the natural consequence of a connection between power and weakness and that ultimately all our views will be completely attained although in the early stage of the arrangement we may be exposed to inconvenience and embarrassment.

There is one major point of view in which the question may be considered. The Raja has manifested towards us a most offensive spirit of suspicion while he owes his political existence at this moment to the aid, which at an enormous expense we reasonably afforded him. Far from acknowledging the slightest sense of obligation he ascribes his relief from danger exclusively to the

power of his own arms and attributes our gratuitous exertions to views directed against the independence of his Government. On these grounds he rejected our proposal for the establishment of a subsidiary force within his territories at the time when the presence of our troops afforded the immediate opportunity of carrying the arrangement into effect. But when their return towards their ordinary stations has excited his apprehensions for the safety of his country, he condescends to accept the benefit of our protection on his own terms. He grants a concession the permission to defend him at our own expense and expects in return that we should submit to every restraint that his jealousy suggests and assist him at our own charge in conquering territories for his benefit. Is it consistent with due dignity and sobriety of political conduct instantly to accept this vainglory (naught) but tardy offer. Should we not by this eagerness to obtain a footing in his country on any terms give a warrant to the suggestions of his exterior jealousy and suspicion. Ought we not rather to maintain the principle of our original proposition and refuse to accept on the basis of an obligation conferred upon us his consent to an arrangement from which he will derive the principal advantage without any sacrifice while the burthen inconvenience and expence of it fall exclusively upon us.

It may be said that this would be sacrificing the substance for the sake of the shadow and hazarding the loss of an arrangement highly beneficial to ourselves and hitherto the object of anxious pursuit for the empty name of dignity and this argument is valid if dignity of political conduct is not essential to the stability of power.

It may be useful to consider upon what terms it is consistent with our views and interests to consent to the establishment of a British force within the Rajah's dominions and what other Military arrangements should be combined with it.

The first point to be determined is on what services our troops shall be employed. Unless the Raja contributes to defray the charges of the force he cannot be entitled to claim its services for any other purpose than the defence of his country against external attack. But it will be necessary to define what is to be considered as such. The protection of his country from external attack seems of necessity to require that we should possess a control over his conduct we may else be involved in wars the result of the Rajah's policy his injustice or his imprudence. This control could alone be established by stipulations relative to our arbitration of disputes such as are inserted in the treaties of alliance with the Nizam and Peshwa. To this however the Rajah will not certainly be induced to consent nor to the restriction upon his intercourse with other states and if these stipulations are rendered indispensable, the arrangement most probably be abandoned yet

some restraint seems absolutely requisite. Supposing for instance the present negotiation with Vazeer Mohammed Khan failing, the Rajah should prosecute hostilities against Bhopal, are we to interfere, or rather could we avoid interfering? Could we admit the principle that he may invade his neighbour or otherwise engage in foreign contest without control and when he should be brought in a state of danger we shall be bound to employ our troops for his defence.

Perhaps the only alternative of restrictive stipulations such as are contained in the treaties of Hyderabad and Bassem is a declaration that we will take no part in any project against Bhopal or directed to the objects of conquest.

It will be necessary to determine whether the incursions of the Pindaries are to be repelled by us.

The troops should have the privilege of changing their position and not be limited as the Rajah proposes to one specific place namely the place best adopted to the purposes of defence. A free passage for our troops through the country north or south of the Nerbudda must it is presumed be demanded.

It is worthy of consideration whether we ought not to insist on the Rajah's contributing at least to the extra expence of the proposed arrangement as an arrangement of which he so largely partakes the benefit more especially under the circumstances of distinct and restriction which have attended his assent to it.

But if this be not insisted on, ought we not to require that he should agree to bear a part of the expenses which will attend future occasions of exertion for his defence or for his benefit.

All these and probably other points which will occur on further reflection, are subjects of deliberation and some if not all of negotiation, can they prudently be left to be determined and negotiated after the actual advance of the troops into the Rajah's country.

It may be observed generally, that if the Rajah had cordially and candidly entered into our views of common interests and security and united with us in the principle of the defensive arrangement as originally proposed to him, if he had not invited the establishment of a body of our troops for purposes of separate advantages and under the influence of a disposition inconsistent with that mutual confidence which should form the basis of the proposed arrangement, the necessity of precautionary stipulations would have been precluded. In that event as was observed in the instructions to Mr Jenkins of the 14th of December, no stipulation of a nature obnoxious or objectionable to the Rajah could be indispensably required.

It is further to be considered whether the troops can prudently be so advanced without making some arrangement for their eventual support. This is a military question and Military authorities seem to think in such arrangement necessary. The necessity indeed might be precluded by an augmentation of the force. But the expense would be in proportion. If it be necessary a post should be established on the Wardha and another towards the Southern frontier of Bundelkhand and the measures for that purpose should be in progress when the troops advance to the northward of the Nerbudda.

There will probably be one great advantage in the immediate advance of the troops in the event certainly probably of the failure of the negotiation commenced through the medium of Colonel Close between Vizier Mohammed Khan and the Rajah. The former may then be expected to call in the assistance of Amir Khan and the Pindaries and if in consequence of the previous discussion and adjustment of all the foregoing points a body of troops is ultimately to be stationed to the northward of the Nerbudda we should have to advance it in the face of an enemy for the junction of Vizier Mohammed Khan with Amir Khan and the Pindaries would constitute a case in which we should be under the necessity of interfering we then commence a new campaign and must regulate our preparations accordingly whereas by advancing our troops immediately we should be enabled to offer our guarantee to any accommodation between Bhopal and Nagpur which apparently is the only obstacle to the conclusion of such accommodation. Indeed it would be necessary that we should prevent the Rajah from carrying on hostilities against Bhopal unless it was our best policy to unite with him in subduing it and the presence of our troops would prevent their assemblage of hostile troops in Bhopal and obviate the contingency of a contest. It would also secure Srangé.

Letter No 25.—The letter intimates that the Nawab of Bhopal was not inclined to come to an adjustment of his differences with the Rajah of Berar on the basis of the terms formerly proposed by Colonel Close.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—R. JENKINS, ACTING RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William the 16th November 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your two dispatches of the 17th ultimo stating that the Nabob of Bhopal is not inclined to come to an adjustment of his differences with the Rajah of Berar on the basis of the terms formerly proposed by Colonel Close.

2 His Lordship-in-Council deeming it inadvisable to deviate from the liberal conditions originally prescribed entirely concurs in opinion with you that no benefit can, under existing circumstances, be derived from entering into any farther discussion with the Vakeel and therefore approves your conduct in having scrupulously avoided laying open the subject to the Rajah's ministers

Leter No 26—In this letter Edmonstone conveys the Governor-General's satisfaction at the Bhonsla's solicitations for a subsidiary alliance But Jenkins is directed to intimate that since the opportunity of forming such an alliance had passed off, the question will be considered in due course He is asked to impress upon the Bhonsla that the object of such an alliance is defensive and not annexation or curtailment of the indepenence, of the acceding state

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William the 9th February 1855.

I have the honour by the command of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General-in-Council to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No , dated the 6th ultimo reporting the substance of your conference with the ministers of the Rajah in consequence of the Rajah's renewed solicitation for the conclusion of a Subsidiary alliance with the British Government, and communicate to you the sentiments and resolutions of his Lordship-in-Council on that important subject

2 I am instructed however in the first instance to signify to you the Governor-General-in-Council's entire approbation of the tenor of your discourse to the Rajah's minister which appears to have been distinguished by a peculiar degree of judgment and discretion You pointed out with great force and propriety the erroneous views taken by the Court, of the principle and object of the alliance, as originally proposed by this Government, and judiciously endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the Rajah and his ministers the purely defensive nature of it and its incompatibility with any views of conquest or extension of dominion

3 The reason which you assigned for this Government not having renewed the negotiation for the conclusion of a subsidiary alliance, agreeably to the intimation formerly conveyed to you, were perfectly proper. Government indeed had little encouragement to urge a proposition which although involving advantages to the Rajah far greater than those to be derived from it by the camps had yet been received with indications of jealousy and distrust and answered by the demand of limitations and concessions

inconsistent with the spirit and objective of the efficiency of the mediated alliance. But a more prominent and operating cause of this Government suspending the further agitation of the question originated in the arrangements of the expedition to the French Island. The equipment of another distant expedition must continue for some further time to preclude the negotiation since in the event of its terminating in the conclusion of a defensive alliance the Military arrangement which the provisions of the alliance would require could not be conveniently adopted until the return of the troop engaged in the pending enterprise.

4 The prosecution of a measure indeed of such magnitude and importance both in its immediate operation and its eventual consequence as the formation of a subsidiary connection with the state of Nagpur obviously requires on grounds of expediency that Government should be free from the exigencies of another important and extensive undertaking for although the system of measure connected with the enterprise now in progress has been framed in such a manner as to leave the means of adequately meeting every supposable emergency of a local and incidental nature yet in a case which without compromising the public for the interests of Government admits the option of suspending or prosecuting an arrangement involving the immediate employment of a considerable body of troops beyond the limits of the British territories and an essential change in the political system of India of which the effect and consequences cannot be foreseen with certainty it is evidently proper to select the person for agitating this important question with reference to considerations of convenience.

5 These observations are stated for the express purpose of being communicated to the Rajah and his ministers. His Lordship-in-Council readily authorizes you in making this communication to the court to assure the Rajah and his ministers that the resolution of Government to suspend the negotiation is entirely uninfluenced by any feelings of resentment for the manner in which the Governor-General's proposition was originally received. It is satisfactory to Government to learn that the Rajah has ultimately done justice to the motives which dictated it and has formed a correct judgment of the objects to which it was directed but having neglected that opportunity of securing the advantages of a closer connection with the British power he cannot justly complain if when the exigencies of his own affairs have rendered him the proposer of the alliance, this Government refers a consideration of the subject to a more convenient season nor will he hereafter have any more reasonable cause of complaint if even in the event of his being disposed to negotiate in the pure spirit of defensive policy and to accede to all those stipulations which a subsidiary and defensive Treaty would require this Government should ultimately find it expedient to decline the very arrangement which it formerly offered to his acceptance and it may be proper that these observations also should be stated in terms of delicacy to the Rajah, in

order that Government may not appear to be committed to the conclusion of the projected alliance when the circumstances which at present require a suspension of the negotiation, shall cease to exist

6 The resolution thus adopted precludes the necessity of entering at present into a discussion of the question relative to Bhopal and Garha Kota, but with reference to the eventual resumption of the negotiation for a subsidiary alliance, I am directed to desire that you will turn your attention to the intermediate acquisition of information regarding the validity of the right of sovereignty over those territories which are claimed by the Rajah

Letter No 27.—Edmonstone reports that the Governor-General was leaving the Presidency and that during his absence the C.-in-C will be in charge

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William, the 5th March 1811

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to His Highness the Maharaja Raghojee Bhonsla, Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao Ramchandra announcing His Lordship's intended departure from this Presidency on the 9th instant and stating that the local administration will devolve on His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief during His Lordship's absence

2 Copies of His Lordship's letters, in the English and Persian languages, accompany for your information

TO—HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA RAGHOJEE
BHONSLA

Written 5th March 1811.

As the interests of the British Government demand my presence in a distant quarter, and as the state of affairs on this side of India is such as to admit of my absence, I have determined to embark from Fort William on the 9th instant, and shall proceed in the first instance to Fort St George and from thence to the place of my destination

The distance of the quarter to which I am about to proceed will prevent me from holding any communication with your Highness by letter after my departure, but I trust that the suspension of our correspondence will be of short duration, as my absence from Bengal will probably not be protracted beyond the period of a few months

Letter No. 29.—It reports the death of Nana Sahib, Raghoji Bhonsla's brother at Benares, where he had gone on a pilgrimage, in the morning of 26th July 1811.

FROM—W A BROOKE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BENARES

TO—N B EDMONSTONE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM

Benares the 26th July 1811

I have the honour to report to you for the information of His Excellency the Vice-President-in-Council that His Highness Nana Sahib died early this morning after a painful and lingering illness

2 I shall not fail to proceed to the Nana's house to condole with the family on the occasion the moment I ascertain that they are at leisure to receive me and I shall continue the same attentions to them which have hitherto been manifested to the deceased

3 Minute Guns, corresponding in number with the age of the deceased, forty-six, have been fired as a mark of respect to the deceased and his family, and I have apprized the Resident at Nagpur of the event by express

Letter No 30—It reports the appointment of Balwant Rao Anant as the Bhonsla's Vakeel at Calcutta and the Governor General's approval of it

FROM—J MONCKTON, PERSIAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM

TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William, the 30th August 1811

I am directed to transmit to you for your information, the enclosed copies in the English and Persian languages, of letters which His Excellency the Vice-President-in-Council has addressed to the Rajah of Nagpur and His Highness's principal Ministers, in reply to letters to the Governor-General's address which were delivered by His Highness's Vakeel Balwant Rao Anant on his arrival at the Presidency

2 The originals of the Vice-President's replies have been delivered to the Vakeel

TO—HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH OF NAGPUR

Written 30th August 1811

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's address by the hands of Balwant Rao Anant (Recapitulate that received 14th May 1811)

The sentiments of friendship and attachment which it conveys are highly gratifying to me and are a proof of your Highness's disposition to improve the amicable connection so happily established between the two states

I entirely approve your Highness's selection of Balwant Rao Anant to remain with the British Government in the situation of Vakeel on your part and your Highness may be assured that the respect and esteem of this Government for you will always secure him every proper mark of regard and attention. I am satisfied that by his faithful conduct he will continue to deserve the favour and confidence of both states

Letter No 31.—This is a covering note to the Governor-General's letter to Raghojee Bhonsla in which the former narrates the details of the military operations against the French in Java which terminated in the conquest of that island with all its dependencies and in the complete subversion of the French power in the Eastern Archipelago

FROM—J MONCKTON PERSIAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William the 2nd November 1811

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to His Highness Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and His Highness's Ministers Shridhar Pandit and Jeswant Rao Ramchandra announcing His Lordship's return to the Presidency on the 16th instant and the conquest of Java and its dependencies by the British forces under the command of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty

Copies of His Lordship's letters, in the English and Persian languages accompany for your information

TO—HIS HIGHNESS RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA

Written 23rd November 1811

Your Highness was apprized by my letter of the 5th of March last that I was about to proceed by the way of Madras to a distant quarter where the interests of the British Government demanded my presence.

I have now the honour to inform your Highness that having arrived at Madras on the 5th of April, I sailed from that presidency on the 24th of the same month to the Eastward accompanied by

an Army under the personal command of Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, Commander-in-Chief of the King's and Company's forces on the Coast of Coromandel, for the purpose of taking possession of the large and valuable French island of Java. The Army arrived off that island on the 1st of August and on landing commenced its operations by marching direct to Batavia the capital which surrendered without opposition. The Army then advanced

After making the necessary arrangements for the future administration of Java I left the island on the 20th ultimo, and returned safely to Fort William on the 18th instant, after a short passage of 28 days

Letter No 32 —Col. Conran writes that the movement of a detachment for the protection of Nagpur, which he had order had been approved. He further reports that since Jenkins had informed him that the news of Karim Khan's crossing the Nerbudda was incorrect, he does not think it advisable to march until he hears further from Jenkins

FROM—COLONEL CONRAN COMMANDING THE
HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE JALNA
To—HENRY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Jalna the 4th December 1811

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo and am extremely happy to find that the measure I took upon myself in despatching force for the protection of the British Resident at Nagpur has been approved of, the amount of which I considered as absolutely necessary to ensure safety, and as there is a latitude allowed on this point in your last letter I have made no alteration in it but ordered Major Custance to pursue his route with all prudent expedition. My original instructions to that officer and a return of his detachment are enclosed

The force under my command is ready to move on the shortest notice but as your instructions of the 30th ultimo appear to have been written under the impression of Karim Khan having crossed the Nerbudda which intelligence Mr Jenkins now informs me was incorrect, I think it advisable not to march until (we hear) further from that gentleman

It is my intention to leave one hundred men of each Battalion of Infantry with a full proportion of European and Native Officers for the protection of the cantonment

The light Field Artillery intends to accompany the force when it moves which consist of Two 12-Pounders, Six 6-Pounders and Two 5½ Howitzers exclusive of the Regimental guns of the Cavalry

The sentiments of friendship and attachment which it conveys are highly gratifying to me and are a proof of your Highness's disposition to improve the amicable connection so happily established between the two states

I entirely approve your Highness's selection of Balwant Rao Anant to remain with the British Government in the situation of Vakeel on your part and your Highness may be assured that the respect and esteem of this Government for you will always secure him every proper mark of regard and attention. I am satisfied that by his faithful conduct he will continue to deserve the favour and confidence of both states

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TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

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an Army under the personal command of Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, Commander-in-Chief of the King's and Company's forces on the Coast of Coromandel, for the purpose of taking possession of the large and valuable French island of Java. The Army arrived off that island on the 1st of August and on landing commenced its operations by marching direct to Batavia the capital which surrendered without opposition. The Army then advanced

After making the necessary arrangements for the future administration of Java I left the island on the 20th ultimo, and returned safely to Fort William on the 18th instant after a short passage of 28 days

Letter No 32—Col Conran writes that the movement of a detachment for the protection of Nagpur, which he had order had been approved. He further reports that since Jenkins had informed him that the news of Karim Khan's crossing the Nerbudda was incorrect, he does not think it advisable to march until he hears further from Jenkins

FROM—COLONEL CONRAN COMMANDING THE
HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE JALNA
TO—HENRY RUSSELL RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Jalna the 4th December 1811

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo and am extremely happy to find that the measure I took upon myself in despatching force for the protection of the British Resident at Nagpur has been approved of, the amount of which I considered as absolutely necessary to ensure safety, and as there is a latitude allowed on this point in your last letter I have made no alteration in it but ordered Major Custance to pursue his route with all prudent expedition. My original instructions to that officer and a return of his detachment are enclosed

The force under my command is ready to move on the shortest notice but as your instructions of the 30th ultimo appear to have been written under the impression of Karim Khan having crossed the Nerbudda which intelligence Mr Jenkins now informs me was incorrect, I think it advisable not to march until (we hear) further from that gentleman

It is my intention to leave one hundred men of each Battalion of Infantry with a full proportion of European and Native Cavalry for the protection of the cantonment

The light Field Artillery intends to accompany the force it moves which consist of Two 12-Pounders, Six 6-P
Two 5½ Howitzers exclusive of the Regiment of the Cavalry

Copies of all letters I may have occasion to write to you concerning the Pindaries shall be sent to the Resident at Poona and Nagpur

*Present state of a Detachment of the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment
Commanded by Major Custance*

Camp Donegan 3rd December 1811	Major	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Adjutants	Serjeant	Subedars	Jemadars	Headar	Drummers	Fireballers	Nalkes	Privates	Total of rank and file	Sepoy recruits
Present	1	7	1	1	1	5	7	37	16	10	31	604	635	10
Total	1	7	1	1	1	5	7	37	16	10	31	604	635	10

A B—A Brigad of 6-pounders completely manned and equipped attached to the above force

G CUSTANCE, Major
1st Battalion 20th Regiment

Letter No 33.—Major Custance is required to leave two companies for the safety of Nagpur Residency and an order from Colonel Conran descriptive of the personnel and equipments of the companies is enclosed

FROM—MAJOR G CUSTANCE, 1st BN 20th REGT

TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Camp at Nagpur the 27th December 1811

I have the honour to enclose a copy of instructions this day received from Colonel Conran

Lieutenant Baker will be left in command of the two companies

TO—MAJOR CUSTANCE COMMANDING A DETACHMENT AT NAGPUR.

SIR,

You are hereby directed to leave two companies of the Corps under your command at Nagpur to be placed under the orders of the British Resident there With the remainder of your Corps, you will move as soon as convenient for the purpose of joining the force under my command by the enclosed route

The two companies to be left are to be completed each to the following strength --

One European Officer,

One Subedar

One Jemadar.

Five Havildars

Five Naiks

One Drummer

One Piper

Eighty Privates

One Puchally

You will select one European Officer to command the whole of the Madras Detachment left at Nagpur. Artillery included, and one Jemadar to act as Native Adjutant

An officer of experience, zeal and attention is to be chosen for this command

The following instructions with regard to the Musket and Ammunition for the detachment left at Nagpur are to be strictly attended to

In each Man's Pouch, Twenty six rounds, and one spare flint

To be left in store, one hundred and fifty rounds per man, and four flints per man I request you will call the Officer's attention to be left in command to this important charge, not only in regard to the distribution and use of the ammunition but also as to the place or places the ammunition is to be kept in The Serjeant of Artillery left with the gun is the proper person to have the immediate care and stowing of it and I recommend that the whole should not be kept in one place but so divided that an accident happening to one part would not communicate with the other

As it is necessary that the Detachment left at Nagpur should be as efficient as possible I desire that not a single stand of arms, the least imperfect should be left with it

You will be pleased to make known to the Resident the contents of this letter

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Camp near Kolhapore
December 24th 1811

Your most obedient humble servant,
HENERY CONRAN,
Colonel

SAMBALPUR AFFAIRS

Letter No. 1 —Jenkins reports the substance of his conference with Jeswant Rao Ramchandra about the complicity of Jhujhar Singh, Rajah of Raigarh, in instigating hostility of the Rani of Sambalpur against Nana Sahib's attempts to take possession of those tracts.

FROM—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—THE RT HONBLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL FORT WILLIAM

Nagpur, the 30th October 1807

The day before yesterday I received a visit from Jeswant Rao Ramchandra, and I now have the honour to submit to your Lordship the substance of our conference on that occasion

2 After some general conversation Jeswant Rao proceeded to inform me that the Rajah had sent him to me at the request of Nana Sahib. The subject of his communication he said related to the late conduct of Joujar Singh of Raigarh whose influence had entirely prevented the success of Nana Sahib's negotiations for the peaceable occupation of Sambalpoore. He begged to call to my recollection a communication to the same effect which had been made to Mr Elphinstone a few months before that gentleman's departure and as Nana Sahib intended shortly to send 11000 troops to that quarter he wished first to be informed of the determination of Government respecting Joujar Singh's conduct since, according to the treaty by which the provinces of Sambalpoore and Patna were restored to the Rajah, it was agreed that if Joujar Singh should by intrigues or otherwise instigate the Zamindars to opposition, the British Government would no longer consider that Chief to be entitled to its protection, and that the Rajah might in such case adopt whatever measures he thought proper towards Joujar Singh. Jeswant Rao concluded by saying that Nana Sahib had thought it incumbent upon him to consult me on the occasion, and that he was always anxious to merit the friendship and confidence of your Lordship

In reply I told Jeswant Rao that I had a perfect recollection of the substance of the communication which had been made to Mr Elphinstone, and which that gentleman had described in his correspondence with Government. This communication however with relation to Joujar Singh stated only as far as I could recollect in general terms that the Zamindars had formed a confederacy of which Joujar Singh of Raigarh was the real head but that I did not remember any particular circumstances which were alleged to substantiate this charge and consequently I did not see with what regard to justice so vague an accusation could be deemed conclusive against Joujar Singh or that Government had been called upon to pass any decision where no proofs were brought forward to constitute grounds even for an enquiry. Jeswant Rao said that every account from Sambalpoore mentioned Joujar Singh as the support of the opposition which the Zamindars had made to the establishment of Nana Sahib's authority in that quarter that the person who was sent by Keshao Govind to Sambalpoore where he remained for a considerable time was now here and might be called to testify the intrigues carried on by Joujar Singh to mar the negotiation and that without Joujar Singh's assistance either open or covert none of the other Zamindars would have ventured to resist. That under these circumstances the Rajah had expected that Joujar Singh would no longer be allowed to profit by our protection.

4. I said I had no doubt that your Lordship would be very willing to decide equitably upon any evidence which might be produced of Joujar Singh's misconduct and that his guilts were established he would certainly forfeit the advantage of our support, but that the faith of Government was pledged to protect him as long as his conduct entitled him to protection and that an engagement so sacred could not be set aside upon slight or insufficient grounds. It was stated on the treaty of cession that if Joujar Singh should excite the Zamindars to resistance by his intrigues or by otherwise espousing their cause against the Rajah's Government the Raja should communicate the circumstances in the first instance to the Governor General that it would remain for Government to examine and finally decide upon the circumstances so adduced. I said I should wish to be able to submit to your Lordship a circumstantial statement of the facts alleged by Nana Sahib's officers against Joujar Singh but that none such had yet been stated.

5. Jeswant Rao said that the person who had been sent to Sambalpoore by Keshao Govind could be called upon for this purpose and that what had been mentioned to Mr Elphinstone as well as the present communication was brought forward in conformity to the Treaty of cession. He said it was probable that the force which might be sent to Sambalpoore, would have to oppose some of Joujar Singh's troops, united with those of the Zamindars and in that case what was to be done. I replied that there could be no distinction made on such a case but that in no event should

the territories of Joujai Singh be molested until he should be declared by your Lordship to be out of our protection. Jeswant Rao again repeated what had been mentioned respecting the intrigues of Joujai Singh and he said it was evident that Joujai Singh would interfere with no other object than that of exciting the Zamindars to rebellion. That such was his object was rendered more certain by his supplying the Rani of Sambalpore with a quota of troops for the defence of the fort.

6 What Jeswant Rao had then stated, I said, was a matter of fact which was more capable of proof than the vague accusation of intrigues ascribed to Joujai Singh, and I asked whether any evidence could be brought forward to authenticate it. Jeswant Rao again referred to the account of the person who was sent to Sambalpore by Keshao Govind, and he enquired the Karkoon who was sent by Mr. Elphinstone with the troops detached to occupy Sambalpore. I replied in the negative and that as the Karkoon did not go to Sambalpore, he had no means of ascertaining that fact, in short that his knowledge was confined to the reports which he heard in the Camp respecting Joujai Singh.

7 Jeswant Rao then asked what he should report as my answer to the communication he had been directed to make on the subject. I recapitulated the substance of my different replies above described and said that I should defer addressing your Lordship until I should be able to state more circumstantially the charges alleged against Joujai Singh and that I need hardly repeat the obligation which the British Government lay under, of protecting that Zamindar's territories, until his misconduct should be proved to your Lordship's satisfaction. At the same time I requested Jeswant Rao would express to the Rajah and Nana Sahib my conviction that your Lordship would adhere to the terms of the engagement contracted through Mr. Elphinstone with the most scrupulous regard to good faith and to the interests of His Highness's Government.

8 Some conversation on other topics then ensued which I shall do myself the honour of stating in a subsequent part of this dispatch. I now proceed to describe another conference on the subject of Joujai Singh which I had yesterday with Jeswant Rao, who came to the Residency accompanied by Keshao Govind and Jonojee Bunsor the person sent by Nana Sahib's manager to Sambalpore as mentioned by Jeswant Rao at the former interview.

9 Jeswant Rao commenced the conversation by informing me that he had stated to the Rajah and Nana Sahib all the particulars of my discourse of the former day, and that both His Highness and his brother were fully sensible of the just and honourable motives which even actuated the British Government. That in order to enable me to submit to your Lordship a circumstantial relation of Joujai Singh's misconduct, Nana Sahib had ordered his manager Keshao Govind who superintended the negotiations with

the Ranee of Sambalpoore and Janojee Bunsor who actually resided for a considerable time at Sambalpoore to wait upon me on his part and Jeswant Rao referred me to Keshao Govind for the particulars which I was desirous to ascertain.

10 Keshao Govind then at Jeswant Rao's desire proceeded to state that he had proceeded with a force for the purpose of taking possession of Sambalpoore and that all the Zamindars with whom he had communicated expressed themselves entirely willing to submit but that a confederacy had been formed under Joujar Singh's influence to oppose the entrance of the troops and he had not thought proper at that time to persist in using force where he hoped he should be able to succeed by negotiation. This was accordingly attempted and the Ranee submitted to receive a small part of about twenty-five men with whom Janojee Bunsor was stationed into her country although she would not receive them into the fort. In the interim Keshao Govind had returned to Ratanpur and the troops remained encamped at Sewree Narain on the Mahanadi under Sakharam Gopal. The negotiation was continued for three months during which Janojee Bunsor remained at Sambalpoore. The Ranee's demand was to be left in the management of Atharagarh of which she would engage to collect and pay the annual tribute to an officer appointed to remain at Sambalpoore but the release of her husband and son formed the only terms upon which she would consent to give up the fort. Keshao Govind was proceeding with a further description of the negotiations when I interrupted him by remarking that there was no necessity to mention any thing with which Joujar Singh was not connected, and that I could have no opinion to give relative to the negotiations with the Zamindars or subjects of this Government.

11 Keshao Govind referred to Janojee Bunsor to mention the circumstances of Joujar Singh's conduct which came to his knowledge during his stay at Sambalpoore. This person stated that a confidential agent of Joujar Singh had been always stationed with the Ranee who adopted no resolution without his concurrence and that the advice which he gave to the Ranee was known to have caused her opposition to the admission of Nana Sahib's troops into the fort that although this agent professed his master to be entirely unconnected with the Zamindars it was known that Joujar Singh would send troops to the Ranee's assistance, if she were attacked, and when the other Zamindars assembled their troops he had collected his to co-operate with them. I asked whether the Agent who was described to be in the fort had any force with him. Janojee Bunsor said that although Joujar Singh continued within his own territory the object of his preparation was to assist the Ranee who certainly depended upon him and but that there were only eight or ten men at that time with the Agent in the fort of Sambalpoore, and in case more were required they would have been secretly sent by Joujar Singh. I asked several other questions but without being able to ascertain either from Keshao Govind or Janojee Bunsor that there was any more direct charge against Joujar Singh.

12 The substance of the whole of their allegations I understood to be that Joujar Singh's intrigues and promises of aid although they might not admit of direct evidence had in fact induced the opposition which had been made by the Zamindars. The existence of these intrigues they wished to prove by the presence of a confidential agent of Joujar Singh, whose name they could not mention, at Sambalpur by his influence with the Rane, by the preparations stated to have been made by Joujar Singh within his territory in concert with the other Zamindars, by the general character of Joujar Singh who is represented to be ambitious and enterprising and to possess great influence with the Zamindars and lastly by the ill success of the negotiation, which they allege would have succeeded had Joujar Singh's Agent employed his master's interposition to any other purpose than that of exciting opposition or had Joujar Singh, as was his duty, avoided all interference in the business.

13 Jeswant Rao then requested that I would submit the particulars which had been described to me for your Lordship's decision, but Keshao Govind said that Nana Sahib considered me to be your Lordship's representative, and expected that Joujar Singh would not be protected. With regard to what had been stated by Keshao Govind and Janojee Bunsor, I said I did not conceive that I was called upon to give my opinion either generally or particularly, as it was to be referred to your Lordship's decision. To the latter remark of Keshao, however, I opposed the terms of the treaty of cession a copy of which I produced, and read the article respecting Joujar Singh. I said it could never be expected that your Lordship would put Joujar Singh out of the company's protection until the result of an investigation should prove that he had been guilty of those specific acts by which he is declared to forfeit his right to that protection, that every Government must be the sole judge of its own obligations, and that on this principle the British Government had reserved the right of deciding upon the facts which might be brought forward to involve the dissolution of its engagement with Joujar Singh, that I should accordingly submit everything which I had heard to your Lordship.

14 I then enquired whether it was intended to send troops to Sambalpur immediately, in which case I deemed it proper to repeat the propriety of abstaining from any attempt against Joujar Singh's territory. Jeswant Rao assented to this caution and Keshao Govind said that Nana Sahib would do nothing contrary to my advice in the business. With respect to my enquiry Keshao Govind said that some delay would take place in sending a force to Sambalpur, and that an answer from Calcutta would probably arrive in the meantime.

15 Nothing further passed at this conference. As it was Keshao Govind's first visit, I presented him and the person who accompanied him with the dresses usual on the occasion.

16 I inclosed in this dispatch I have the honour to transmit the translation of a report which I ordered Kundoo Pant the Karkoon who was sent by Mr Elphinstone to accompany the troops to Sambalpoore to draw up of his proceedings. I was very particular in my enquiries to ascertain the extent of the alleged misconduct of Joujar Singh but the Karkoon's information on this subject your Lordship will observe to be very confined. I have before alluded to a report of Nana Sahib's intention to release the imprisoned Rajas whose confinement appears by all accounts to be the principal obstacle to the success of Nana Sahib's negotiations with the Rane of Sambalpoore. I have no intelligence that throws any further light upon the accusations against Joujar Singh. It is said that Keshao Cowind will proceed against the Bustar Raja previously to any attempt upon Sambalpoore and the delay mentioned by Keshao Cowind renders this account probable.

17 In order to preserve a connected detail of everything which passed relative to the Zamindar of Raigarh I referred the relation of the remaining heads of my first conference with Jeswant Rao to a subsequent part of my dispatch. I now beg leave to describe them for your Lordship's notice.

18 When the conversation respecting Joujar Singh was concluded Jeswant Rao proceeded to inform me that a person named Oomajee Puthel had a day or two before arrived at Nagpur in the capacity of a Vakeel from Jeswant Rao Holkar that the object of his mission was not yet known as he had not been admitted to an audience in consequence of the intervention of the Dewali festival but that it was supposed he had particular business to communicate to the Rajah and that he had made a point of giving me the earliest intelligence of the Vakeel's arrival. I told Jeswant Rao that I was obliged to him for the information and I asked whether any change had taken place in Holkar's situation. Jeswant Rao replied that Holkar was still encamped at Rampoorah Bhampoorah but that he had ordered all his chiefs who were cantoned in different places in the vicinity to attend him and that it was supposed the consultations would terminate in some expedition. I said it was not to be supposed that Holkar would remain fixed at Rampoorah and that I concluded he might visit Muheshwar according to the plan which was formerly mentioned. Jeswant Rao said that it was probable he would come to Maheshwar in the first instance he believed also that Holkar was very pressing with Sindhia to join him at the meeting in order to determine upon their mutual plans of operation. I said it was not probable that Sindhia would forget the result of the last interview whatever might be Holkar's desire.

19 Jeswant Rao then mentioned that he heard a report which he did not know how to credit that a correspondence has been discovered between Jeswant Rao Holkar and (in figures) in which the latter reproached Holkar for not performing his engagements and Holkar defended his mission by pleading his want of funds to

support his troops The engagements, Jeswant Rao said, were not mentioned expressly in the report, but he had heard they were directed to an attack upon the company He said that he mentioned the intelligence merely in the way of friendship as he had heard it, and supposed it was one of those which are frequently circulated to promote the ends of designing persons I replied that there was so much improbability on the face of the report that I need not enlarge upon it to him who judged so well of the general origin of such accounts, and that I had heard nothing of the kind

20 I do not recollect that anything further passed which I need intrude upon your Lordship's notice

Translation of a Marahatta report received by Mr Jenkins from the Karkoon Kundoo Punt, who returned to Nagpur in the month of August 1807

I set out in company with Janoo Raghonath from Nagpur (in September 1806) and arrived at Ratanpore in twenty days Keshao Govind (Nana Sahib's manager) was employed in raising troops for which he detained us about 15 days He then desired us to go to succeed Gopal who was encamped with a force on the Mahanadi at a village named Sewari Nairam, and told us that he would send the troops after us I remained about two months and a half at Sewari when Keshao Govind ordered Sakharam Gopal to return to Ratanpore about 300 Infantry and the same number of horse at length arrived from Ratanpore and we marched to Sarangarh

In the interim Keshao Govind had sent Sakharam Vishwanath with 25 men to be stationed as a Thana at Sambalpur These the Ranee received with proper attention and kept them three months, during which time nothing was heard of them in camp Keshao Govind then sent a pair of Hircarrahs to Sakharam Vishwanath with a present of cloth for the Ranee, and the Hircarrahs returned in the course of a month with intelligence that all the Zamindars of Atharagarh were united that they had stopped up the passes and Ghats, and were ready for battle, and that the Ranee said she would give up the fort upon the terms only of her husband and son being released from confinement This account Keshao Govind wrote to Sreemunt (Nana Sahib)

After this Pudmunath Bukshe Kayat and Chote Guru of Gangpui were sent from Sambalpur to negotiate They proposed that the tribute of Atharagarh should be fixed and that the money should be paid in any way which might be thought proper That if they wished to have a Thana at Sambalpur, 50 or 100 men might be stationed without the fort, and that the Ranee would obey all orders only let her have the internal management of the country Two months were wasted in this kind of wrangling At length

Janajee Bunsor Naik and Narhari of Sambalpur arrived from Nagpur with presents from Sreemant to the Rane. It was debated whether the Raigarh man should be taken with them to Sambalpur. Narhari opposed going through Raigarh and said that he would engage to get the Thana delivered over to Boetreea and another respectable person from Raigarh was at Sarangarh during two months. When asked whether Joujar Singh was engaged in treachery they said they took no part but that whoever obtained the musnad it would be indifferent to them. Janajee Bunsor, Antajee Naik, Geedur and Narhari went to Sambalpur and Pudhmanath Bukshie went to mediate. Two months elapsed during which we heard nothing more. Four men who accompanied them from Sarangarh returned. These reported that the Rane proposed to give up the fort only upon the release of her husband and son, that the amount of tribute should be settled. If they meant to attack her she said that she would oppose them as long as she was able and then fly to the hills and destroy the country. It had better therefore not send troops against her.

In the manner above described nine months elapsed. Although Butree of Raigarh declared solemnly that they have no kind of connection with either party it was said every where in the Bhonla's Camp that the Raigarh man was connected in the business.

Letter No. 2.—Edmonstone intimates that the Governor General approved of the replies given by Jenkins to the accusations against Jhujhar Singh. The enclosure is a letter from Governor General to the Rajah warning him against any complicity in the hostilities against Nana Sahib.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—RICHARD JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William the 23rd November 1807

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 4 dated the 30th ultimo reporting the substance of your conferences with the Rajah's Minister Jeswant Rao Ramchandra on the subject of the alleged conduct of Rajah Joujar Singh of Raigarh in encouraging the opposition of the Rane of Sambalpur and others to resist the authority of the Mahrattas.

2 The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council entirely approves the tenor of your replies to the communications which you received upon that subject and concurs in opinion with you that no fact has in any degree been established of a nature to support the justice of the accusation against Rajah Joujar Singh. With a view however to manifest the solicitude of the British Government to promote the interests and wishes of the Raja of Berar

as well as to withdraw Rajah Joujar Singh from proceedings which although by no means proved appear to the Governor-General in Council to be far from improbable, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council has addressed a perwannah to Rajah Joujar Singh of which an English copy is enclosed. A persian copy of it will be transmitted to you from the Persian Department for the purpose of enabling you to communicate it to His Highness's ministers

3 With respect to the reports communicated to you by Jeswant Rao Ramchandra of a correspondence having been discovered between Jeswant Rao Holkar and Amrut Rao, I am directed to inform you that no such fact has come to the knowledge of this Government and that the report of the existence of such a correspondence is in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council altogether unfounded

4 The Governor-General in Council entirely approves your reply to the Minister on that subject

Letter No. 3.—The enclosure which is a copy of the letter of Mr Melvill, later Commissioner at Cuttack, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, contains information about the claim of the Rani of Mayurbhanj to the remission of a part of the revenue she had to pay to Government for her Zamindary. That was based upon the abolition of a pilgrim tax collected at Khoonta ghat within her Zamindary by the orders of the British Government. The loss of revenue she thus suffered entitled her to the claim

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM,

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort William, the 25th January 1808

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to transmit to you the enclosed copy of an extract from the proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department and to desire that you will ascertain and report the information required in it

Extracts from the proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department

TO—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, respecting certain claims preferred by the Rani of Moharbhaj

2 The subject of those claims was repeatedly brought before the Commissioners and Colonel Harcourt having considered it expedient to refer the enquiry to the Collector of the Northern division Captain Morgan was accordingly instructed fully to investigate the subject and to submit a detailed report for consideration

3 A considerable period elapsed before the report was prepared. Sometime however previous to my leaving Cuttack the report was transmitted to me, with a request that I would deliver my sentiments on the validity or otherwise of those claims and I immediately gave an opinion decidedly favourable to the justness of the grounds of the demands. Colonel Harcourt I conceive did not agree in that opinion as no subsequent measure relative thereto was adopted

4 I have not a copy of Captain Morgan's report and could not at this distant period positively assert that in passing that decision my judgment may not have been influenced by additional evidence obtained from the Cuttack records or resulting from distinct enquiries but if I had not observed it to be stated by the Board of Revenue that on general consideration of the reports received by the late Commissioners there appears to the Board no reason for recommending any temporary abatement I certainly trusting to my recollection should have said that the matter of the report (I do not mean Captain Morgan's conclusions) would by fair induction lead to the inference which I had drawn viz., that not only an abatement was necessary but that a fair claim or right, to further remuneration was also apparent

5 The information which I possess on the subject of those claims suggests to me the following case, or statement

6 Khoontah Ghat is a narrow pass or defile, through a wild tract of the jungle territory of Moharbhany and the only road from Bengal to Cuttack leads and, from time immemorial has led through Khoontah Ghat, and in this defile, the Chooars, or Jungle inhabitants of Moharbhany had the opportunity of greatly annoying pilgrims in going to and returning from the temple of Jagannath

7 The authority that could afford protection against the annoyance, thought itself entitled to some consequent consideration and the pilgrims to ensure their safety submitted to the payment of a small tax.

8 The Mahratta Government it is probable had it in their power to have prevented or interrupted any regular collection of that tax but if they could not at the same time have entirely removed the annoyance, to which pilgrims were exposed such impediment would have operated greatly to the diminution of their own collections at the temple they appear therefore to have consented to the tax on condition of the Moharbhany authority becoming responsible for robberies committed on pilgrims.

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9 But whatever were the causes which gave rise or permanency to the circumstance, the fact seems undoubted, that a specific tax on pilgrims passing Khoontah Ghat had long been levied by the Moharbhunj Zamindar.

10 The amount of the tribute chargeable on the Zamindar of Moharbhunj, was formerly about six thousand rupees per annum and the fund raised by the tax at Khoontah Ghat, appears to have been the only resource for defraying that tribute.

11. It would appear that in the year 1207, the Mahratta Government with a view of increasing the amount of the tribute as well as to have certain security for the regular payment thereof, had exacted and that the Rani of Moharbhunj had consented that the former tribute should be commuted for a ten annas share or 10/16th of the collections at Khoontah Ghat

12 After the death of the late Rajah violent disputes arose in Moharbhunj on the subject of the executive authority, or management of the Zamindary, one party asserting, it ought to be exercised on behalf of an adopted child, the other insisting that the right of management belonged to the Rani or widow of the deceased Zamindar. The adopted child was son to the Keunjur Rajah, a powerful neighbour, and the Rani found herself compelled to make application to the Mahratta Government for military aid, promising to defray the expense of the troops, the assistance was granted, but as the disputes continued a long time, the expense thereby incurred involved the Zamindary considerably in debt to the Mahratta Government

13 As a mode of liquidating the debt alluded to, the six annas share, viz, the share of the collections at Khoontah Ghat that now remained as the property of the Zamindar, was assigned over to the Government, until the accumulated debt should be paid off and for the purpose of satisfactory adjustment, officers on the parts of the Rani, kept counterparts of the accounts of the collections

14 This assignment, or mortgage, was given in the year 1208, and nearly three years afterwards, viz, a short period previous to September 1803, when our forces compelled the enemy to evacuate the Cuttack province, the Ghat was still in charge of the Maratha officers but it is alleged, and on good grounds that the debt was then liquidated, and that the accounts were under adjustment, and that possession of the six annas share was about to be restored to the Moharbhunj authority

15 If the foregoing statement is correct, it will follow that by annulling, or prohibiting the tax at Khoontah Ghat, the tribute demandable from Moharbhunj becomes absorbed in the revenue of the temple, and that the Zamindar has a claim on the same revenue, for an annual allowance of sum equal to the balance

between 6/16 of the average amount of former gross annual collections at Khootah and the total of the annual charge of collecting the tax the amount of such balance will perhaps be found to be from eight to ten thousand rupees per annum

16. In adjusting an account of this kind however it will be requisite to attend to the separate demand on Moharbhunj for a thousand rupees per annum as stated in the sunnud dated 1st of Zehjah 10, Amlī

17 The third paragraph of the letter from the Board of Revenue dated 28th ultimo the letter of the Cuttack Collector dated the 15th of the same month and the sunnud of Rajah of Berar will be found to contain evidence in support of the case, which I have made out and should I have at all analyzed the claim further proof to bear directly on any doubtful points, may easily be collected

18 The Rani at the time of the conquest was considered by the Governor-General as possessing the Zamindary authority in Moharbhunj and even if the circumstances mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the letter of the Board of Revenue should be admitted whether those occurrences should be accounted temporarily misfortunes suffered by the Zamindar or be considered events involving just bars to rights founded on ancient possession Government will easily determine but as I was a party to the assurances given to the Zamindars it may be right to mention that the assurances were general that the change of Government might operate to their benefit but never could to their injury

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

Dacca

The 20th May 1807

J MELVILL,

Late Commissioner Cuttack.

*Extract of a letter to the Board of Revenue dated
the 28th May 1807*

• • • •

13. On consideration of the circumstances stated by Mr Melvill the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the Rani of Moharbhunj has a substantial claim to a compensation equivalent to the actual net collections received by her from pilgrims resorting to Jagannath, under the authority of the late Maratha Government. The Governor-General in Council accordingly desires that you will take into your consideration the amount of the compensation which should be allowed to the Rani on

that principle, and that you will state the balance which may be due to her, after debiting her for the balances of land revenue due from her, from the time of the establishment of the British authority in Cuttack. In order to form this adjustment, it will of course be necessary, that you should at the same time, take into your consideration, the amount of the Jumma which should be assessed on the territory of Mohurbhunj, on the principle stated in Section XXXVII Regulation XXII 1805

14. The Governor-General in Council considers it advisable that a final arrangement should be made with respect to both those points, as soon as circumstances will permit

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

MY LORD,

Having communicated to the Collector of Cuttack your order of the 28th May last, we have the honour to transmit to your Lordship in Council, the enclosed copy of the Collector's reply containing a statement of his proposed adjustment of the demands of the Rani of Moharbhunj

2 With respect to the amount of the Rani's collections from the pilgrims, passing the Autarra Nallah we are not aware of any objection to the mode adopted by the Collector for adjusting the compensation payable to the Rani on that account, but with respect to the adjustment of the land revenue we really feel ourselves at a loss to offer an opinion on the subject

3 From the Collector's letter it would seem that the principle of adjusting the revenue, had been already laid down by the late Commissioners. If that principle therefore is to be adhered to Government instead of having a revenue to receive from the Rani, will have to pay the annual sum of Rs 4,210. It may possibly have a small sum to receive on account of the Mehal denominated Iogut Golah, but as the Collector states that the sources from which the revenue of that Mahal are derived, are principally of the nature of Sayer Collections, which under the existing regulations, ought to be abolished, we conceive that the Jama to be fixed upon it in future, will be very inconsiderable. In respect to that Mehal however, we must have a further report from the Collector on the subject of the resources of which it is composed.

4 In respect to the quit rent to be received by Government on account of the Moharbhunj territory, the amount proposed by the Collector being Rupees 5,400 per annum certainly appears to us to be very small, when considered with reference to the extent of the territory and to the resources of it, for among its resources, must be considered, we conceive, the amount of the compensation

to which the proprietor may be considered entitled on account of pilgrims passing the Autarrah Nullah. The Collector states that the Commissioners established it as a rule in regard to the other Rajahs whose Jama has been fixed at a quit rent to assess the amount payable by them at a sum equal to the amount of the Peshcush payable, by them to the Maratha Government after deducting ten per cent on the amount although the amount payable by those Rajahs may be much less than what their estates are really capable of yielding. Yet at all events Government received a revenue from those Rajahs whereas in the present instance, in case the adjustment proposed by the Collector be sanctioned it will have to pay instead of receiving any revenue. Mr Melvill we observe, states that the collection from the pilgrims were the only resources which enabled the Revenue to pay her Peshcush to the Maratha Government but on a reference to the former reports on the subject of the territory of Moharbhunj we observe that the Timber grown on the hills is stated to be a source of great profit to the proprietors besides which as the territory is at great extent we conceive that nothing is wanting to make it profitable to the proprietor but peace and tranquillity which it is to be expected will be ensured under the British Government.

We have the honour to be,
etc. etc.

Revenue Board
The 15th December 1807

THOMAS GRAHAM,
C. BULLER.

TO—SIR G. H. BARLOW BART K.B. PRESIDENT AND
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, FORT
WILLIAM.

GENTLEMEN

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of dated 9th June last, and its enclosures. The Governor General in Council having been pleased to consider the Rani of Moharbhunj entitled to a compensation, equivalent to the actual net collections received by her from the pilgrims resorting to Jagannath, I referred to the accounts of persons passing the Autarrah Nallah Ghat, in the year 1208 1209 and 1210 as these accounts afford an exact statement of the number of pilgrims who paying at the Autarrah Nallah Ghat must have paid at Khoontah Ghat. The result is as follows. Soll Iattrees during the 3rd year 14,787 who paying at Khoontah Ghat at the rate of 1.4 each pilgrim gives rupees 18,484 12-0. Bhurrun pilgrims 27,593 paying at the rate of 6 annas is rupees 10,347-6-0 or a grand total of rupees 28,831 2-0 which on the average is rupees 9,610-6-0.

The matter respecting Ioogut Golah, is distinct from the collections at Khoontah Ghat. The Golah is still in the possession of the Rani and she has hitherto collected the duties for the mehal, It is for the most part of the description of Sayer and by the existing regulations, should be abolished, but as she has made the collections, Government is entitled to the amount at which she farmed it, as stated in her Sunnud Rupees 1,000 per annum for 1211, 12, 13, 14

The principle on which the commissioners proceeded in fixing the Jama of Gurjath Rajahs was to allow a deduction of 10 per cent on their peishkush, as ascertained to have been paid by them, to the Maratha Government and as the Jama of Moharbhunj was 6,000 rupees deducting 10 per cent, there remains tribute to Government 5,400 per annum.

I have stated the account on the opposite side by which it appears that there is a balance due to the Rani of 12,841-8-0 from 1211 to 1214 inclusive

The Mehal Ioogut Golah is totally distinct from the Moharbhunj territory. It will be necessary to abolish the Sayer Collections, and make the settlement of the Revenue with the Revenue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Zillah Cuttack,
Revenue Department
The 30th November 1807.

Your most obedient humble servant,
G WEBBE,
Collector.

The Revenue of Moharbhunj

	Rs.	a.
To peshkush from 1211 to 1214 Amlı being 4 years at Rs. 5,400 per annum	21,600	0
To form a Ioogul Golah for at Rs. 1,000 per annum	4,000	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,600	0
To balance compensation to the Revenue	..	12,841 8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	..	38,444 8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Zillah Cuttack.

Letter No. 4.—In this letter written to Raghoji the Governor General explains why his desire for the transfer of either the Cuttack province or Berar cannot be satisfied. This is an enclosure to Edmonstone's letter addressed to Jenkins dated 11th July 1808

FROM—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM
TO—RAJAH RAGHOJI BHONSLA

Fort William the 11th July 1808

I have had the honour to receive your Highness's letter (re capitulate that received 11th of May) and I have perused the letters which your Highness and your respected Ministers addressed to Mr Colebrooke. Mr Elphinstone has also reported to me in detail the communications which he has held with your Ministers on the subjects to which those letters relate.

With a view to evince the sincerity of my regard and to manifest the degree in which your Highness's affairs have engaged my attention and concern I propose to explain to your Highness in this address my unreserved sentiments on the subjects which you have brought under my consideration rather than refer your Highness for a knowledge of them to the verbal representations of the Resident.

Previously to my departure from England I was fully informed of all the transactions and negotiations which had passed between your Highness and the British Government and had perused the correspondence which took place on the subject of your situation between your Highness and the late Governor-General Marquis Cornwallis and Sir George Barlow. I am apprized therefore of the degree of solicitude manifested by those high personages to compensate for the losses which you have sustained by the result of the war to the utmost extent practicable, consistently with a due regard to equity and justice and to the obligations of public faith and of the exertions which were employed for that purpose.

Being satisfied of your sincere desire to maintain the relations of perfect amity and concord with the British Government I have no hesitation in expressing to you the same solicitude for the improvement of your condition that was manifested by Marquis Cornwallis and Sir George Barlow.

The latter in his address to your Highness of the 24th of March 1806 stated in the most explicit terms and with all the candor of friendship those measures which this Government precluded from adopting with a view to the improvement of your affairs by considerations of unquestionable justice and of public faith. I request your Highness to peruse that letter as containing explanations equally applicable to the circumstances of the present time.

I leave it to your Highness's own judgment to determine whether those explanations are not founded on reason and justice

But as a proof of my real friendship and regard I will be even more explicit with your Highness and although it becomes necessary for that purpose, to refer to past events, I request your Highness to be assured that it is far from my intentions to offend your feelings or to revive the memory of those differences which have happily been succeeded by the restoration of cordial harmony and friendship between the two states

In your letter to which that of Sir George Barlow above mentioned is a reply, your Highness expressly stated your expectation of the extension of your dominions to their original limits, that is to say the restoration of the provinces of Berar and Cuttack, and the tenor of the conferences which Mr Elphinstone after his return from the Residency of Nagpur has occasion to hold with your Highness and your Ministers, warrants the supposition that your Highness still entertains a hope that one or both of those provinces may be restored to you I know too that your Highness adverting to the assurances which you have received from this Government of a desire to compensate your losses to the utmost extent practicable, consistently with equity and public faith has declared your opinion that it was as consistent with equity and public faith to restore either Berar or Cuttack as Sambalpur and Patna

But a little reflection must, I am satisfied, convince your Highness that such an expectation is unreasonable and that this opinion is founded in error

The province of Berar by being annexed to the dominion of His Highness the Nizam ceased to be at the disposal of the British Government That Government is bound by treaty to secure to his Highness the integrity of his dominions It is evident therefore that consistently with public faith, no measures can be adopted with a view to the restoration of that province

With respect to Cuttack, the obligations of both of equity and public faith render it impossible to transfer the possession of it to another state For in the first place the British Government cannot in justice be expected to resign the possession of a territory valuable not merely on account of its produce but in a still greater degree on account of its position and acquired not by the efforts of irregular ambition and aggressive violence, but by the result of a war which that Government was compelled to engage for the defence of its rights and those of its allies and secondly the restoration of the province of Cuttack would not be consistent with the obligations of public faith because the protection of the British Government is pledged to the chiefs and landholders of the prov-

ince, and it would be a violation of that principle to compel them to place themselves under another dominion after having acquired valuable rights and privileges solemnly declared to be indefeasible.

Your Highness will thus perceive the absolute impossibility of complying with the wishes which you have intimated or of obeying under present circumstances the dictates of my own solicitude to improve the condition of your Highness's affairs. Your Highness will equally perceive the futility of dispatching a confidential agent with a view to the accomplishment of this object. No explanations could add to my knowledge of the circumstances on which your Highness founds your declared hopes and expectations or augment my desire to fulfil the obligations of the most animated attachment and regard for the interests and prosperity of your Government. I can only lament that the means of gratifying that anxious desire are not at present within my power and recommend to your Highness to confide in the effects of that disposition when the unceasing vicissitude of affairs may afford an opportunity of making that return which your Highness's continued adherence to the obligations of mutual friendship will be considered to demand.

For any details which your Highness may require in elucidation of the subject of this address I beg leave to refer you to the verbal communications of Mr Jenkins.

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONF

Secretary to Government.

To—SHRIDHAR PANDIT

Written 11th July 1808

I have been gratified by the receipt of your letter (Recapitulate that received 11th of May)

Mr Colebrooke has also communicated to me the letter which you addressed to him explaining in detail all the circumstances of the Maharajah's views and situation and stating the intention of His Highness to dispatch you to the Presidency for the purpose of representing them to me in person.

In my reply to the letter which I have received upon the same subject from His Highness I have judged it consistent with the sincere respect and regard which I entertain for His Highness to communicate my sentiments upon the subject of His Highness's

letter and of your address, in the fullest and most unreserved manner. To that reply therefore I refer you, for a knowledge of them. But I cannot resist the desire which I feel to express my sense of the zeal and fidelity which you have manifested towards your sovereign in the representations contained in your letter to Mr Colebrooke which have augmented if possible my conviction of His Highness's sincere attachment to the British Government, and my solicitude to promote the welfare of His Highness's Government by any means within my power.

It is a satisfaction to me to reflect that His Highness's affairs are conducted by a person of your judgment and ability sincerely attached to His Highness's interests and so anxious to maintain and improve the relations of amity and concord so happily established between the two states.

The report which I have received from Mr Colebrooke of your distinguished qualities, confirms the good opinion which a previous knowledge of your character had impressed upon my mind.

I should have derived the greatest pleasure from a personal meeting with you, but independently of the circumstances which preclude the necessity of your exposing yourself to the fatigue of a journey to the presidency, I should be extremely reluctant to deprive His Highness even for a short time of services of his faithful and confidential ministers.

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government

To—JESWANT RAO RAMCHANDRA

Written 11th July 1808

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (Recapitulate that received 11th of May)

The circumstances of your fidelity and attachment to the Maharajah and your long services are well known to me, and it is a peculiar gratification to me to reflect that His Highness's affairs are conducted by Ministers of such ability and integrity and so solicitous to promote the friendship and good understanding which happily subsists between the two states.

Having replied in detail to the letters from His Highness and Shridhar Pandit to which you refer, you will be apprized of my sentiment on the subject to which those letters relate.

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to Government.

Letter No 5.—Jenkins reports that Nana Sahib's troops under Ramchandra Wagh had taken the fort of Sambalpur and the Rani had fled away. Captain Roughsedge is requested not to give shelter to her if she comes into British territories.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—CAPTAIN ROUGHSEDF COMMANDING THE
RAMGARH BN HAZARIBAGH

Nagpur the 9th November 1808

I have just been informed by the minister of the Rajah of Berar that the troops of Nana Sahib under Ramchandra Wagh have taken the fort of Sambalpur and are in pursuit of the Rani who has fled and may attempt to take refuge within the Company's frontier.

By the 8th article of the treaty of Deogaon you will be aware that the Company engage that they will not give aid or countenance to any disaffected relations of Rajahs Zamindars or other subjects who may fly from or rebel against the Rajah's authority and the Rajah accordingly requires that the Rani may not receive protection in the Company's dominions should she take refuge in them from the pursuit of his brother's troops who will not of course pass their own frontier. Applicable to such a case you will probably receive the orders of Government to whose decision I have referred the above circumstances together with the Rajah's requisition. In the meantime I have been desired to inform you that I have done so and to request that if the Rani should take refuge from the pursuit of the Rajah's troops within the districts under your authority she may either be ordered immediately to quit them or be detained under your jurisdiction until you may receive the instructions of Government on the subject.

Letter No 6.—This letter with its enclosure reveals the treachery of Nana Sahib in taking possession of the Fort of Sambalpur that forced Rani of Sambalpur to flee to the shelter of the British.

FROM—CAPTAIN ROUGHSEDF COMMANDING THE
RAMGARH BATTALION HAZARIBAGH

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp Chota Nagpur 20th May 1809.

About the middle of March I had the honour to receive through a messenger sent by Sacoo Gopal from Camp of the Maharrat troops at Sambalpur your letter of the 29th November

last ; about the same period I also received instructions from the Chief Secretary to correspond with you, when necessary, on the subject of Raighur and that district

2 The circumstances detailed in the accompanying copies of my letters to Mr Edmonstone have rendered it unnecessary for me to trouble you hitherto, but I deem it proper to apprize you of the approaching arrival of the Rani Rattan Kuar within the British territories to enable you to carry into effect any instructions which Government may have issued on the subject of obtaining from Nana Sahib or his brother an adequate provision for her future maintenance

3 My Agent Farzand Ali now with the Rani, states but does not credit a report that the Mahiatta troops now in Sambalpur have taken a position for the purpose of intercepting her progress towards my camp. Such a step would be in direct contradiction to the tenor of the letter I have received from Saccoo Gopal and a late communication of Chandajee Bhonsla. I therefore have little apprehension on the subject

4 I am happy to state that hitherto no interference with the Zamindary of Raigarh has been attempted by the troops of Nana Sahib. Reports of an alarming nature to the Rajah have however been in constant circulation and some time must necessarily elapse before either his neighbours or himself can be convinced of the placable dispositions of the present occupants of Sambalpur. I have minutely enquired into the conduct of the Rajah of Raigarh and am convinced that Nana Sahib has no just ground of complaint against him since the period of our cession of Sambalpur

To—N B EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT

SIR,

On the 14th instant I had the honour to receive your letter of the 26th ultimo with its several enclosures but the dispatch from Mr Jenkins of which a copy has been transmitted to you has never reached me

2 From the Rani of Sambalpur a person arrived in my Camp on the 16th instant with an urzee descriptive of the manner in which the Mahrattas obtained possession of her fort, of her own destitute condition and of her hope, though confessedly undeserving, to be once more preserved by our interference and protection

3 The Sardars of Nana Sahib it appears only a few hours before the fort was attacked had entered into a specific agreement with the Rani, in which the sum to be paid in arrears and the future amount of revenue claimable from her were determined

and the stipulations of both parties were confirmed by oaths of the most binding nature administered in a Hindu temple within the fort regarded as peculiarly sacred

4 On the following morning however the troops were attacked by a large force which had crossed the river during the night on rafts and after some resistance were not only defeated but prevented from regaining the fort This disaster deprived the Rani of all hope of maintaining her position and she even considered herself fortunate in escaping at midnight and on foot from her treacherous opponents She took the route of Chota Nagpur and after much fatigue and many privations succeeded in gaining a retreat offered her by a faithful Zamindar among the hills which form the boundary of that district with the Pergunnah of Jessore and Gangpore.

5 In reply I stated to the Rani my belief of the intention of Nana Sahib to provide for her subsistence by the allotment of some portion of land within the province of Sambalpore that he might consider adequate to that purpose and the disposition of the British Government to urge but not to guarantee the fulfilment of such an arrangement if it met with her acquiescence that possibly the treachery of which she accused the Mahrattas had only for its object the possession of the fort and the consequent more easy subjection of its dependencies and would have been followed up had she fallen into their hands by an offer of the provision alluded to that she however was the best judge of their disposition towards her and perfectly capable of appreciating the value of their offers and it was with peculiar pleasure I obeyed the benevolent orders of my Government in offering to her choice an alternative to this proposal which consisted of a reasonable provision for her future maintenance under the protection and within the territories of the Hon'ble Company the permanency of which would depend on her faithful adherence to a promise of wholly relinquishing all concern and interference in Sambalpore and abstaining from every kind of communication of a political nature with its Zamindars or other inhabitants

6 I concluded with a request for her early reply and an assurance that in the event of her continuing to desire the British protection under the stipulated condition, Meer Farzand Ali should be sent to meet her on _____ and means immediately taken to _____ with all necessary accommodation

7 This person as is stated in a letter of mine of Mr Secretary Dowdeswell is at present employed on a mission to Singhbhoom essentially to the execution of my orders in his _____ but I expect his return in a short time on account of the communications and arrangements which may become requisite, with

the . . . of the Mahratta troops with
 the . . . of Raigarh and the Rani of Sambal-
 pore I hope to be indulged with permission to . . .
 myself of his services and to compensation by the salary he for-
 merly enjoyed of . . . a month during the time he
 shall be employed on the public duty

8 I am much ashamed of the negligence with which I have
 hitherto omitted to transmit you this person's receipt for
 1000 Rupees . . . to him on account of his salary
 from 1st of January to the 1st of December 1807 and not included
 in the public accounts of my mission to Sambalpur when they
 were sent in. Indeed I did not conceive that his services would be
 longer necessary but sickness forcing me to quit Cuttack and the
 Rancee refusing to release me from a promise, which with the sanc-
 tion of Government I had entered into of remaining with her
 until in settled possession of her lands unless Farzand Ali was
 continued in attendance on her, I was compelled to leave him
 behind. She did not obtain her Jagheer until the latter end of
 the rainy season and would not dispense with his advice and
 presence until the 25th of October, when with the party of Sepoys
 that had been granted to her he returned direct to Hazaribagh
 and received from me as I trust it will appear, reasonably, the
 arrears of his salary to the day of his arrival the 30th November
 1807

9 Under this explanation I presume to hope for the sanc-
 tion of His Lordship in Council to the payment of the inclosed
 bills, the disbursement of 50 Rupees was occasioned by the dispatch
 of the Governor-General's letters last year to the Rajah of Raigarh
 and by other casual employment in the political department of
 the same person

10 This reported that the most flattering offer of favour and
 protection has been made by the Mahratta Officers to the Rajah
 of Raigarh on the part of Nana Sahib who, they do not scruple
 to assert it, is particularly interested in his welfare. The Rajah
 however with a too well founded distrust has quitted from his
 residence for the mountains . . . to inform me
 if it is the intention of the Government that I should protest,
 for without the Mahratta districts I cannot oppose any attempt
 they may make upon his . . . or any movements
 they may adopt of . . . alarming nature so as to
 oblige him and . . . continue in the hills and
 spread confusion in his Zamindari

Camp Nagpur (Chota Nagpur)
 21st January 1809

E ROUGHSEGE,
 Commanding Ramgarh Battalion.

Letter No 7.—The letter and its enclosure are important. Roughsedge points out in the enclosure in what destitution the Rani had arrived in his camp seeking shelter of the British Government against Nana Sahib

FROM—CAPTAIN I ROUGHSEDEGL COMMANDING
THE RAMGARH BATTALION

TO—RICHARD JENKINS ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT
NAGPUR.

Camp Chota Nagpur 4th June 1809

From the accompanying copy of my letter to the Chief Secretary you will perceive that the Rani Rattan Kuari of Sambal pore has safely arrived in this district

At her request I do myself the honour to invite your interference if it can with propriety be exerted in favour of the son of a very old servant of the Rani named Dimbandhu Padhan. He is at present confined in the fort though I believe without any serious cause and it is much desired that he should be permitted to quit Sambal pore and join his father who has followed the fortunes of his Mistress

3. If without inconvenience any account could be obtained of the present situation of Rajah Jeyte Singh and Maharaje Singh who have been so many years confined in the fort of Chanda the Rani would derive much consolation in her misfortunes from acknowledgment of their welfare.

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

SIR,

I had the honour to address you on the 19th ultimo and have now to submit for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council the arrival of the Rani of Sambal pore in the neighbourhood of my camp

2. Her situation my agent Farzand Ali reports to have been most critical the troops of Nana Sahib having discovered the place of her retreat and adopted measures for her seizure which could not long have failed of success. They made no attempt to intercept her progress towards Nagpur however and her journey was completed without accident or opposition.

3. The destitute situation in which she has sought the protection of the British Government and the advanced period of the season have obliged me to make arrangements for her accommodation in this district during the rains but I trust I shall be honoured with the orders of His Lordship in Council as to the extent of her future provision and support before the detachment under my command quit Nagpur

4 I paid the Rani a visit yesterday evening and could not view the contrast presented by what I saw at our former interviews, without a most lively compassion for her misfortunes and a desire to forget how justly they are to be attributed to her folly alone. She appeared to feel the most sincere gratitude for the generous protection that had been extended to her and expressed her entire devotion to the pleasure of Government.

5 I have found it necessary to advance to her a few hundred Rupees in addition to the sum mentioned in my last letter.

Camp Nagpur (Chota Nagpur)
31d June 1809

E ROUGHSEGE,
Commanding Ramgarh Battalion

Letter No 8—The letter along with its enclosure is important. In the letter the Chief Secretary points out the grounds on which Nana Sahib's insistence on the surrender of the Rani should be resisted. In the enclosure Captain Roughsedge narrates the circumstances that led to the flight of the Rani to the shelter of the British. The treachery of Nana Sahib's officers is brought out.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT
NAGPUR

Fort William the 26th June 1809

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No 9 to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council dated the 27th ultimo reporting the substance of your discussions with Jeswant Rao Ramchandia on the subject of the Rani of Sambalpoore.

2 The arguments which you employed to resist the demand for the surrender of the Rani are considered by the Governor-General in Council to have been perfectly correct, solid and judicious and have little room for any additional observation what they support the equity. Resolution of Government to withhold a compliance with Nana Sahib's unreasonable demand.

3 It is not asserted on the part of Nana Sahib that the asylum afforded to the Rani precludes the recovery of any rights required by the cession of Sambalpoore, or of any revenue due

by _____ in her capacity of Zamindar nor is she
 accused of _____ which according to the _____ of
 civilized nations required her surrender as the criminal to the
 justice of his country. If the statement contained in the enclosed
 extract from Captain Houghsedges dispatch of the 21st of
 January be correct the Rani has too much reason to complain
 of the grossest treachery on the part of Nana Sahib's officers.
 His object is to gain possession of her person with the view to
 place her in a condition of restraint which may deprive her of
 the means of resisting or exciting resistance to his authority.
 If secure from any such attempts Nana Sahib can have no motive
 to desire the surrender of her person unless it be a motive of
 revenge. His solicitude therefore on this subject is in fact found-
 ed on a mistrust of the assurances of the British Government
 which has engaged to prevent such attempts on her part and has
 rendered the continuance of its protection conditional on her
 abstaining from them.

4. The solidity of her plea cannot of course be admitted and
 the obligation of humanity and justice _____ us to
 surrender this unhappy fugitive a victim to the motives of
 revenge.

5. The case the Rani of Sambalpoore cannot afford en-
 couragement to other _____ to seek an asylum within the
 British territories until reduced to the same condition of _____
 and it certainly is not for the interest of the British
 Government to encourage their _____. She has not
 exchanged the possession of her Zamindary for a bare subsistence
 within the Company's provinces but she has fled from the force
 of violence and treachery which expelled her from her lands and
 from her habitation and rendered her a wanderer in the wilderness.
 Others must be reduced to the same distress and danger before
 they resort to the same protection.

6. It may further be observed that Nana Sahib can with still
 less justice claim the surrender of the Rani when he himself has
 uniformly resisted every application for the release of her son
 and husband whom he retains in vigorous confinement and whose
 enlargement would probably have secured to him the peaceable
 possession of the province.

7. You will of course continue to resist the demand for her
 surrender on the same grounds on which you have hitherto
 opposed it adding to your representations on the subject, the
 sanction and commands of the Governor-General in Council and
 a repetition of the assurances which you have already afforded
 that she will neither be encouraged nor permitted to prosecution
 measures calculated to obstruct the establishment
 of Nana Sahib's authority in the district of Sambalpoore.

Extract from a letter from Captain Roughsedge to the Secretary to the Government in the Secret, Political and Foreign Department under date the 21st January 1809

From the Rani of Sambalpoore a person arrived in my camp on the 16th instant with an Arzee descriptive of the manner in which the Mahrattas obtained possession of her fort, of her own destitute condition, and of her hope, though confessedly undeserving to be once more preserved by our interference and protection

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3 The Sirdars of Nana Sahib it appears only a few hours before the Fort was attacked, had entered into a specific agreement with the Rani in which the sum to be paid in arrears and the future amount of Revenue claimable from her were determined and the stipulation of both parties were confirmed by oath of the most binding nature administered in a Hindu temple within the fort regarded peculiarly sacred

4 On the following morning however her troops were attacked by a large force which had crossed the river during the night by rafts and after some resistance not only defeated but prevented from regaining the fort This disaster deprived the Rani of all hope of maintaining her position and she even considered herself fortunate in escaping at midnight and on foot from her treacherous opponents She took the route of Chota Nagpur and after much fatigue and many privations succeeded in gaining a retreat offered her by a faithful Zamindar amongst the hills which form the boundary of that district with the pergunnahs of Jespore and Gangpore.

5 In reply I stated to the Rani my belief of the intention of Nana Sahib to provide for her subsistence by the allotment of some portion of land within the province of Sambalpoore that he might consider adequate to that purpose, and the disposition of the British Government to urge but not to guarantee, the fulfilment of such an arrangement if it met with her acquiescence that possibly the treachery of which she accused the Mahrattas had only for its object the possession of the fort and the consequent easy subjection of its dependencies and would have been followed up had she fallen into their hands by an offer of a provision alluded to, that she however was the best judge of their disposition towards and perfectly capable of appreciating the value of their offers and it was with peculiar pleasure I obeyed the benevolent orders of my Government in offering to her choice an alternative to this proposal which consisted of a reasonable provision for her future maintenance under the protection and within the territories of the Honble Company the permanency of which would depend on her faithful adherence to a promise of wholly relinquishing all concern and interference in Sambalpoore and abstaining from every kind of communication of a political nature with its Zamundars or other inhabitants

6 I concluded with a request for her early reply and an assurance that in the event of her continuing to desire the British Protection under the stipulated condition Meer Farzand Ali should be sent to meet her on the frontier and means immediately taken to provide her with all necessary accommodation

A true extract

N B EDMONSTON

Chief Secretary to Government

Letter No 9 -Roughsedge writes about certain border disputes about some villages which had been claimed by Nana Sahib Bhonsla's officers at Sambalpore and plundered by them

FROM—CAPTAIN I ROUGHSEDFG COMMANDING
THE RAMGARH BATTALION

TO—RICHARD JENKINS ESQUIRE RESIDENT AT
NAGPUR

Darabagh the 4th February 1810

I had the honour to address you on the 4th ultimo and beg leave now to enclose a translation of an Arze received within these few days from Rajah Joujar Singh of Raigarh I cannot suppose it possible that Chandajee Bhonsla will presume to make a serious attack on that Zamindari but the menacing positions he has caused to be occupied are in violation of the spirit of the engagements of Nana Sahib and have a very injurious effect upon the interests of Joujar Singh whose Mueciers inform me that their master had deemed it advisable to send his wives and family to the mountains a circumstance naturally productive of the greatest alarm throughout the whole pergunnah

Although the measures alluded to in the 5th paragraph of my letter of the 2nd January (the relinquishment of the Pergunnah of Padampore) has already been adopted by Rajah Joujar Singh it does not appear to have been attended with the desired effect for from the papers I enclose it would seem that a fresh demand has been set up by Chandajee Bhonsla of certain villages in Raigarh alleged to have been formerly dependant on Chandarpore in Sambalpore Khas I have little hesitation however in pronouncing this alarm to be groundless a minute examination of the ancient boundaries of the two districts having been entered into in the year 1805 by Colonel Broughton who for that and other purposes made a tour throughout the province

3 Seven villages as Rajah Joujar Singh very truly asserts, appearing to have been erroneously annexed to Raigarh were at

that period restored to Chandeipoie, and the Rani of Sambalpoie, who was the only person interested, declared herself satisfied that no further claims existed against that Pergunnah

4 However this may be, it is evident that any demand against the territory of Raigarh ought in the first instance to have been made on the part of Nana Sahib through you to the British Government and that Chandajee Bhonsla, in calling upon Rajah Jujai Singh to surrender a part of his country and supporting this demand by the assembling of troops in menacing positions and other demonstrations of hostility has violated the engagements of Nana Sahib respecting that Pergunnah and brought very serious inconvenience and distress on its inhabitants

5 Khajee Baber a servant of Chandajee Bhonsla brought to me about a month since a duplicate of your letter of the 3rd of December and a verbal message respecting the pergunnah of Boad which his master was desirous of considering as a dependency of Sambalpoie and consequently included in the cession of that province to Nana Sahib For this purpose, the man in question informed me that he had been sent with a letter to the Magistrate of Cuttack, who after some months' attendance dismissed him with a verbal authority to take possession, which Chandajee Bhonsla had only been prevented from doing by a former remonstrance of mine on the subject

6 My reply to that officer cautioned him against interfering with the pergunnah of Boad, which as you will perceive on a reference to the schedules enclosed in my dispatch of the 14th of June 1806 to the Honble Mr Elphinstone is not included in the cession of territory to the Rajah of Berar and indeed was omitted on account of its local importance as the key into Cuttack, which was previously submitted to Government

7 Since I began this letter a report has arrived that troops of Chandajee Bhonsla have actually plundered several villages in Raigarh I do not feel inclined to give credit to it, but allow me to request that Nana Sahib may be invited to issue strict orders to his officers in Sambalpoie to refrain from all menacing steps, and indeed desist from all direct communication with Rajah Jujai Singh with whom they cannot be expected to agree on any subject

Letter No 10.—The designation of the writer is not given but he must be an officer of the British Army at Hazaribag, who might have taken the place of Captain Roughsedge The letter is addressed most probably to Jenkins Higgot refers to the dispute between the Marathas and Rajah Jujhar Singh of Raigarh He gives his own opinion of the conduct of Jujhar Singh The enclosure certified by Captain

Roughsedge is an application from Joushar Singh for British assistance against the unprovoked attack of the Marathas on his territory

FROM—R HIGGOT

TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hazaribagh the 1st December 1811

I have the pleasure to forward a copy of a letter received from Chandrabhan Bhonsla of Sambalpoore of my reply to the same, and of a Parwana I ventured to address to Rajah Joushar Singh which I trust may meet your approbation

I am by no means authorized to interfere in the disputes between the Marhattas and Joushar Singh having received the express orders of Government to refer all persons making applications to me of a political nature connected with the affairs of the state of Nagpur to you

My orders to the above effect were dated the 17th July last and I availed myself of the earliest opportunity that offered of making them known to the Bhonsla. I conclude however from his continuing to address me this information could not have reached him prior to the dispatch of his last reference

In giving the advice I have done to Joushar Singh I trust you will not think me culpable from a personal acquaintance with him and from his former good conduct. I must confess myself somewhat interested in his welfare. The charges preferred against him by the Bhonsla are very serious. I trust however that on investigation he will appear in a less criminal light than he does at present.

I had the pleasure to forward a large supply of wines etc., for you by Hazareebagh people on the 7th of last month. I trust they will reach you in safety

(No address given but seems to be written to the Resident at Nagpur).

Translation of a letter from Rajah Joushar Singh Jagirdar of Raigarh written on the 7th of May

After compliments

The state of things here you will be informed of by my former letters. I have now to mention that although the Mahrattas have received from me the Malguzari for Padampore, they have set up a Thanna there and called upon me to give up the estate. It was your former instruction to me to relinquish this place whenever required to do so by the Mahrattas. I have therefore obeyed your orders and their Thanna is now in their possession. Of late however

a further demand has been made upon me of certain villages to have belonged to Chandrapore but Sir when Colonel Broughton and you came to Raigarh, the 7 villages in possession belonging to that Estate (as you must remember) were given up and I have never since interfered with them, the Mahiattas therefore now unjustly, and violently, claim the village of Raigarh, and pay no attention to my remonstrances being apparently determined upon resorting to your orders to me are to remain quietly in my fort, and to these I am paying punctual obedience, with hope of your speedy attention to situation Raigarh is entirely surrounded by Mahiattas though belonging to you, therefore it is necessary to take immediate measures for assistance Chandajee Bhonsla Tantia Sudda and Kashee Ram Killada are at Sambal-pore, with a force of 4 or 5000 Horse and foot 6 or 700 men are encamped at Adharli, (about 10 Coss from Raigarh) which it is necessary for you to be acquainted with

After writing this Aizee I learn that the Mahiatta standard is raised at Doorgoo Pallee (4 Coss from Raigarh) and that the troops at Sambal-pore and Adharli (abovementioned) are to join it in a combined attack on Raigarh They say they will ruin me in whatever way it may be practicable although I have committed no kind of offence against them, and have obeyed your orders in every part of my conduct They are determined upon quarrelling with me, and I hope you will pay speedy attention to my request of assistance

A true translation

E ROUGHSEGE, Captain

PINDARIES

Letter No 1.—Jenkins reports that the Bhonsla was very much worried about the depredations of the Pindaries. The activities of the Pindaries were due to the fact that Bhonsla's troops on his north-western frontier had killed the adopted son of Chitoo. Further he reports that Nana Saheb was "very jealous of any interference on the part of the Rajah in the measure he wishes to adopt for the occupation of the ceded provinces" i.e., of Sambalpore, etc.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Nagpur, the 21st February 1807

In my last dispatch I had the honour to acquaint you of the Rajah's expedition to Ramtek. His Highness returned from thence on the 9th instant.

It was my original intention to have taken an early opportunity of renewing the subject of Sambalpore in order either to induce His Highness to adopt some decisive measure for the occupation of that province upon some one of Mr Elphinstone's propositions or to promote an entire relinquishment of the question. Since his return however the Rajah has been so much employed in dispatching the arrangements of his internal administration, with the view of securing a total remission from business during the approaching marriage of his daughter and indeed in adjusting the preparations for the marriage, that I have not had it in my power to execute my intentions. In the midst of his other avocations the Rajah is at present much pressed with regard to the Pindaries who have recommenced their depredations on the North-Western frontier, the conduct of some of the Rajah's troops having given them a good pretence for their inroads in attacking and killing an adopted son of Seetoo at Singhpore, a place formerly given by the Rajah to that Chief. A skirmish has since taken place between a party of these plunderers and the Rajah's troops on the Waidha in which the latter have lost several horses, elephants and camels. The Rajah is consequently too much taken up with proceeding for the defence of his own country to carry into execution any plan for sending troops to another quarter.

It appears on the other hand that Nana Sahib is very jealous of any interference on the part of the Rajah in the measure he wishes to adopt for the occupation of the ceded provinces. Keshoo Govind has accordingly been again sent with about 400 Infantry and 4 Guns and I hear has arrived at Raipore, where a negotiation has been opened with the Rance of Sambalpoore. This circumstance seems to indicate that Nana Sahib is willing if possible to obtain possession of the districts without being obliged either to his brother or to the British Government and at all events I am convinced that the Rajah has scarcely a voice in approving or rejecting the propositions which have been made to him on the subject. If Nana Sahib should still fail in obtaining Sambalpoore by his own plans and I understand the Zamindars entertain a great horror of his treachery and cruelty he will probably again hope for the Rajah's assistance, and in that case the Rajah may hereafter wish to profit by the mediation which has been offered under your authority

Letter No 2.—Jenkins reports the depredations of the Pindaries within 20 koss of Nagpur and occupation of Seoni by the Rajah's troops and that the Army from Chouragarh had crossed the Nerbudda for co-operating with Sindhia's army in the occupation of Bhopal.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Nagpur the 26th June 1807

An incursion of the Pindaries into the Raja's country to the north-west of Nagpur in which these freebooters penetrated to within about 20 koss of the capital, has been almost the only event that has occurred since the date of my last dispatch. The movements of Ganpat Rao's army to Shahpore enabled them to get in his rear and in their progress they plundered and murdered a respectable person of Balla Sahib's family who was celebrating a marriage at his native village. The party returned along the Wardha to the hills and regained their main body on the Nerbudda notwithstanding several strong parties both from hence and Ganpat Rao's camp detached in pursuit.

The Raja's troops are now in possession of Seoni but no operations have been yet commenced against Hoshangabad although I am informed by the Ministers that it is the intention to attack that fort. Wazeer Mohammed Khan is said to be now in Raissin and Hoshangabad to be garrisoned by only 7 or 800 Pathans. Neither of the Raja's armies on the frontier have received orders to canton although the rainy season is now advancing. The army from the vicinity of Chouragarh has crossed the Nerbudda, and is said to be intended to co-operate with Sindhia's troops in taking possession of the Bhopal territories.

Two grand exhibitions of fireworks have lately taken place at Nagpur in honour of the marriage of His Highness's daughter to each of which I was invited, and on both occasions I found the Raja in high spirits and good humour. I have also received a visit of ceremony from Shridhar Pandit, at which I, of course, presented him and the persons who accompanied him with the usual dresses. I returned the Minister's visit a few days ago, and was received with great attention. At both interviews Shridhar Pandit was very profuse in his professions of attachment to the British Government.

Nana Sahib has been long anxious to visit Chanda, and has only been persuaded to delay his journey to witness the completion of the marriage ceremonies and entertainments. He continues very unwell, but the day of his departure is not fixed. Mohammed Meer Khan departed some time ago to Sindhia's Camp by the route of Burhanpur.

Letter No 3—Jenkins reports about the depredations of the Pindaries in Chhatisgarh and round about Nagpur. Incidentally he mentions that people went to Benares via Ratanpur.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL DOVETON, COMMANDING IN BERAR

Nagpur, the 31st March 1809

You will have heard of a body of Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda, and proceeded towards Garah Mandla and Chhattisgarh. At Gadarwara they completely plundered one of the Rajah's Camps carrying away above 400 horses and a large quantity of baggage. They made a hard push to overtake a large-body of pilgrims proceeding by Ratanpore to Benares, but having failed in overtaking them, they are now returned in number of about 2,500 to the neighbourhood of Rampail a place forty coss north-east of Nagpur. As that part of the country has not been often molested, they are collecting great plunder, and it is supposed to be their intention to take a circuit to the south of Nagpur which would bring them near the Wardha. I think it necessary therefore to let you know where they now are, and I shall write you any further intelligence I may receive of their movements. The Rajah has at present no troops out after them, but is taking great, and more than usual precautions for the safety of the city.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 17th March and am much obliged for the statement of Holkar's force it contains. There is a report today that Mahipat Ram has

appeared in the neighbourhood of Burhanpur but accounts from Amraoti mention the Pindaries to have come down there in large numbers

P.S.—I have given intimation to the Nawab Salabat Khan of the present situation of the Pindaries

Letter No 4.—The letter gives the whereabouts of Meer Khan and his troops, and points out that Meer Khan wanted to canton his troops in Garha Mandla during the rains.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL DOVETON COMMANDING IN BFRAR

Nagpur the 5th July 1809.

I have had the pleasure of receiving yours dated the 14th ultimo

Since that period Meer Khan who was between Bhopal and Bhelsa accompanied by Vazir Mohammed Khan moved on Chynpore Bari which he summoned to surrender. This was refused and a slight skirmish took place after which he marched to his present position between the villages of Bamhni and Chownepara in the northern bank of the Nerbudda not far from Chouragarh. From this place parties of horse continually crossed that river which owing the scarcity of rain is still fordable in every direction and plunder the Rajah's country as far as Seoni Chapara, whilst other parties make incursions into Garha Mandla the Deobe (Doab) and Saugor countries. The most general report regarding his immediate intentions is that he will canton his troops in Garha Mandla during the rains at the same time prosecuting his views of raising money from Saugor which lately paid tribute to Sindhia co-operating with Bhopal in recovering the places he has lost to the northward of the Nerbudda which he cannot however very effectually do until his battalions and guns join him. The Rajah's force which was at Chynpore Baree has re-crossed the Nerbudda and is now encamped at Sohagpur. Five or six thousand Infantry are left to defend the forts of Baree and Chouragarh. The latter is a hill fort pretty strong but taken even by the Rajah's troops in 16 days the former is a large place, its principal defence being a river which almost encircles it and which is so dammed up as to render it unfordable in all parts of the year. The Rajah has a considerable force in Garha Mandla which with that at Sohagpur comprizing his whole force in the field Sadik Ali Khan has set out to join the latter with Treasure and a small reinforcement, but although the Rajah has lately shown some disposition to act vigorously the devastation which his territories do and must suffer and the almost certainty that his troops will not fight will probably lead him to satisfy Meer Khan's demand.

Letter No. 5.—The letter with its enclosures conveys the determination of the British Government to expel Meer Khan from Bhonsla's territories if the former does not listen to the remonstrances of the Governor-General

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Fort St George, 16th October 1809

The Governor General has had under his consideration your successive reports regarding the proceedings and views of Meer Khan which in His Lordship's decided judgment require to be arrested by the most active and vigorous measures. His Lordship's sentiments and resolutions on this subject will be made known to you by the enclosed copy of my private letter of yesterday's date to Captain Sydenham

A reply to your dispatches together with the necessary instructions will be prepared and transmitted to you with the least practicable delay, in the mean time as it may be of importance that you should be apprized of the measures in agitation to repress the progress of Meer Khan's ambitions and dangerous designs, I am directed to convey to you this private intimation

A letter to the Rajah apprizing him of the resolution of the British Government to protect or restore his dominion by the expulsion of Meer Khan, if the remonstrances which the Governor General has addressed to him should be disregarded is preparing but without awaiting the receipt either of that letter or your official instructions, it will be advisable that you should communicate to the Rajah the measures now in progress for his relief and you will of course make this communication to him in the manner calculated to produce the most favourable impression upon his mind

The knowledge of our intention may be expected to invigorate the Rajah's counsels and to encourage his exertions for his own defence (if not too late), until relieved and supported by the advance of the field force under Colonel Close with whom you will now of course directly correspond, and to whose suggestions with regard to any arrangements in the power of the Rajah to adopt in aid of the common cause, you will be careful to attend

For your further information I also enclose an extract from Captain Sydenham's dispatch to which my private letter refers, describing the force proposed by him and Colonel Close to be employed on this occasion

TO—CAPTAIN SYDENHAM

MY DEAR SIR,

Your express dispatch of the 8th instant reached the Presidency this afternoon. The Governor General had at the time under consideration Mr Jenkin's reports regarding the views and

proceedings of Meer Khan and your suggestion respecting the necessity of equipping a force to act eventually against that Chief is only an anticipation of the resolution which His Lordship was prepared to adopt

His Lordship is decidedly of opinion that it is become indispensably necessary not merely to act on the defensive against Meer Khan but to oppose his progress to Nagpur or if he should have gained the start of our operations to drive him out of that country. It is a question not simply whether we shall aid the Bhonsla but whether we shall suffer another Mussalman power of considerable magnitude great activity and unbounded ambition to establish in India and on the most vulnerable point of our political interests. On such a question there can be no doubt

The plan for the formation of a field force which you have proposed in concert with Colonel Close has His Lordship's entire approbation and the necessary orders and instructions for carrying it into effect will be issued without delay. In the mean time I am directed to convey to you this earliest intimation of His Lordship's resolution that any measures and arrangements which you and Colonel Close can adopt to expedite the formation of the intended field force, without awaiting the receipt of official authority for that purpose may be pursued.

The Governor General is fully sensible of the benefit which the public service would derive from the exercise of Colonel Close's distinguished talents abilities, judgment and experience in this conjuncture, is extremely anxious that he should assume the personal direction of all the military operations to be undertaken and His Lordship proposes accordingly to vest the Colonel with the entire command of all the forces at Hyderabad at Seroor and on their march to the former. Major General Champagne who holds the temporary command of the Poona Subsidiary force, will according to an arrangement some time since adopted be relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Montresor who will proceed to join that force with the utmost practicable expedition and act under Colonel Close's orders.

His Lordship leaves it to the discretion of Colonel Close to proceed immediately to take the personal command of the Jalna force leaving orders for the other corps to join him.

His Lordship being also highly sensible of the value of Colonel Close's political talents and of the expediency of the union of military and political powers in such a situation further requests that he will accept the _____ of all political affairs to the north ward connected with the objects of the proposed military measures, and it is His Lordship's intention to place Mr Jenkins under the authority of Colonel Close who will also continue to exercise at present. Your political functions will remain as before, and with respect to any discussions with the Durbar of Hyderabad on points relating to the operation of the field force, you will certainly feel no difficulty in acting in concert with Colonel Close.

I wish to Gooty (?) this evening to desire the body of silledar Horse originally directed to join Lieutenant Colonel Conran to counter-march and resume its original destination

His Lordship will probably write to the Nizam and the Peshwa on the subject of the proposed service, but you will not of course delay making the necessary communication to the Nizam until the arrival of the letter to His Highness

The necessity of dispatch will, I trust, appear to Colonel Close a sufficient apology for my not addressing him also at the present moment. The principal object of such an address indeed will be fully answered by your communicating to him this letter

Regular official instructions to you and to Colonel Close will be prepared with the least practicable delay, in the meantime you and the Colonel are at liberty to act upon the intimations contained in this letter

Fort St George

The 15th October 1809

N B EDMONSTONE,

Chief Secretary to Government

*Extract from a letter from the Resident at Hyderabad,
dated the 8th October 1809*

19 The system of military operation, to be adopted against such an enemy as Meer Khan, should be similar to that pursued by Sir Arthur Wellesley against the Rebel Dhondia Wagh, and by Major General Smith against Meer Khan himself in Rohilkhand. This system would hold out the prospect of an early and decisive termination of hostilities. Any other system would lead to a protracted warfare, and might admit of Meer Khan's unmolested return across the Nerbudda

20 Taking therefore into consideration the immediate danger which threaten to disturb the tranquillity of these territories, the policy of being prepared for active operation against the whole force of Meer Khan, and the particular system of warfare best adopted to bring the contest to an early and favourable termination, I shall take the liberty of suggesting the amount and description of the force to be assembled on the frontier —

Cavalry — 1 Regiment of Dragoons and 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry with 12 Galloper Guns. The troops of Horse Artillery

Infantry — 1 Regiment of Europeans and seven Battalions of Native Infantry, with the usual proportion of Field Pieces

If the situation of affairs in Mysore should admit of such an arrangement, I should venture to propose that from 1,000 to 2,000 of the Silledar Horse be ordered in advance with the Regiment of Dragoons. About 3,000 of the Nizam's regular Infantry and 2,000

of the best Horse under the Nabob Salabat Khan might be collected to act in conjunction with the British Force. The remainder of the Nizam's Troops would be required to defend the country against the depredations of small bodies of Pindaries and other plunderers.

21 The plan which I venture to submit to your Lordship's notice would admit of the formation of a light corps consisting of Cavalry Horse Artillery and the Flank companies of the Infantry which could act separately from the main body of the force and would be capable of the most rapid movements

22 From the measures which are in progress for the relief of the Hyderabad Subsidiary force an Army of the above description could be collected without difficulty in any part of the Deccan. Of the cavalry the 1st Regiment is at Hyderabad the 2nd at Seroor the 4th and 8th at Jalna and the 7th with Lieutenant Colonel Conran. The Horse Artillery is at Jalna. Of the Infantry there are 3 Battalions at Jalna—2 Battalions at Hyderabad 1 Regiment of Europeans and 2 Battalions with Colonel Conran. A Regiment of Dragoons would be required to march from Bangalore. The amount of the force may be estimated at 2600 Cavalry with 20 guns drawn by Horses and 6,400 Infantry with 16 Field Pieces. That is 10,000 men (?) and 36 pieces of artillery

Letter No 6—The letter is important inasmuch as it conveys the determination of the Governor-General to drive out Meer Khan from any footing in or near the territories of the Bhonsla, and explains that the reasons for this determination were two-fold viz. (i) not to let Meer Khan seek a revival of the Muslim power firstly by carving out a principality for himself from Bhonsla's territories and then by combining with the Nizam against the British, and (ii) to let the Bhonsla have some compensation for the loss of his own territories out of what will be gained by the expulsion and destruction of Meer Khan. The details of military disposition are also outlined.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT FORT ST GEORGE.

TO—R. JENKINS ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St George, the 18th October 1809.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the dates and number noted in the margin on the subject of the views and proceedings of Meer Khan and to express to you the high sense which the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entertains of the judgment and political ability manifested in the discussion contained in your dispatch of the 8th of September

2 It is not necessary to enter into a discussion on all the cases of which you have contemplated the possibility. It is sufficient to inform you that your reasoning is generally approved.

3 His Lordship entirely approves the tenor of your letters of the 1st instant to the address of the Resident at Hyderabad and Lieut Colonel Doveton, copies of which have been transmitted to the Governor-General by the former of these officers. It was obviously necessary under any decision that Government might have formed in consequence of the proceedings of Meer Khan to provide for the security of the frontier of our ally the Nizam, and with reference to that object only it would have been requisite to move forward to the eastern frontier of Berar a considerable force.

4 But considerations of a more extended nature have led the Governor-General to determine to oppose Meer Khan's design of subjugating the territories of the Rajah of Nagpur, and to drive him from the southward of the Nerbudda. Even admitting that the present designs of Meer Khan are not so extensive as those which have been conjecturally ascribed to him, the success of his immediate operations against the state of Nagpur are certainly of a nature to inspire them in the mind of a soldier of fortune, whose power has been gradually and rapidly augmenting, whose independence of the state to which he is nominally subject has systematically been accomplished, and whose ambitious disposition, energy of character and military talents, are too well known to warrant a belief that his scheme of aggrandizement will be limited, so long as he shall be left at liberty to mature and extend them.

5 The weak and inefficient condition of every other military power in India (that of the British Government excepted) has afforded an ample field for the prosecution of what appears to be the primary object of Meer Khan's ambition to become the founder of a new Mussalman power in India. The danger to which the security and tranquillity of the British Empire in India would be exposed by its accomplishment, is too obvious to need illustration, and it would be difficult to imagine a case in which the exertion of our arms could be required upon principles more urgently and strictly defensive.

6 The question therefore to be decided is not simply whether it is just and expedient to aid Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla in the defence or recovery of his dominion, although in point of policy the essential change in the political state of India which would be occasioned by the extension of one of these substantive powers of the Deccan, might warrant and require our interference; but whether an enterprising and ambitious Musalman Chief at the head of an army, irresistible by any power, but that of the Company, should be permitted to establish his authority on the ruins of the Rajah's dominion, over territories contiguous to those of our ally with whom community of religion, combined with local power and resources, might lead to the formation of projects not uncongenial,

it is to be feared to the mind of the Nizam and certainly consistent with the views and hopes of a powerful party in his dominions for the subversion of the alliance. Of such a question there can be but one solution.

7 The Governor-General with reference to these considerations has come to the determination to prevent the establishment of Meer Khan's dominion on the ruin of that of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla. I am accordingly directed to transmit to you the accompanying letter from His Lordship to Meer Khan requiring him to relinquish his designs against the state of Nagpur which you will be pleased to cause to be conveyed to that Chieftain the letter is accompanied by a copy and translation for your information.

8 As it is probable that Meer Khan may refuse or evade a compliance with the desire expressed in that letter measures have been taken to collect an army to enforce it the army is to consist of one Regiment of His Majesty's Light dragoons a troop of Horse Artillery five Regiments of Native cavalry one Regiment of His Majesty's Infantry and seven Battalions of Native Infantry with a body of Mysore Sillekdar Horse. With the exception of the Regiment of European dragoons this force can be furnished from the troops already within the Nizam's dominions and those on their march to Hyderabad under Lieutenant Colonel Conran with the aid of a Regiment of Cavalry from Secoor. But the whole are not expected to be assembled in advance before the 1st of December.

9 Colonel Close is to assume the personal command of this Army and is also vested with powers of Political and Military control on all positions connected with the proposed arrangements. You will accordingly be pleased to attend to all his directions and to communicate to him all the intelligence in your power and you will concert with that officer in the means and mode of applying the co-operation of the Rajah of Nagpur in the contest now contemplated if it can in any way be made useful.

10. A force is to be collected in Bundelkhand as a precautionary measure, and this force will also be subject to the orders of Colonel Close if its cooperation should become expedient.

11 The intention of Government to protect Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla is expressed in the enclosed letter from the Governor-General to His Highness which you will be pleased to present to him a copy and translation accompany it for your information.

12 The Rajah can hardly expect that we shall adopt those decisions and expensive measures for his protection without a compensation. There cannot therefore be a doubt that he will be deeply impressed with a high sense of the value and disinterestedness of our friendship when he learns that it is not the intention of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to demand any either in the way of territorial cession or pecuniary payment.

13 The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General does not consider that the Rajah possesses any claim to our protection still less to such a liberal exercise of it, but is induced notwithstanding to act in this generous manner towards His Highness by two principal motives —

First.—It must be considered that although our policy operates to the benefit of the Rajah in the high degree inasmuch as it saves him from complete destruction and maintains him in dominion, our measures are produced by a sense of our own interests entirely whatever might be his distress. We should be prohibited from interfering by the established principles of our Government, if the consequences of his destruction were not dangerous to our interests. We could not in truth claim the merit of coming forward exclusively for the Rajah's benefit and though this consideration cannot be supposed to deprive us of the right to require some compensation for assistance so critical and important, the Governor General is of opinion that it is entitled to some weight in dictating a liberal course of policy towards the Rajah.

Second—The Rajah suffered very severely by the result of war of 1803 more so comparatively in point after recent cessions than either Sindhia or Holkar by the result of their contests with us. We have often expressed our regret for his losses and our readiness to avail ourselves of any favourable opportunity to repair them. The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General is of opinion that the gratuitous support to be at present afforded to His Highness may justly be considered a benefit of such magnitude as to supercede whatever claims could be founded on our conditional promises and in a great degree to meet those pretensions to our favourable consideration which the Rajah has so frequently urged.

14 It is possible also that our military operations may dispossess Meer Khan of his territory of Seronge in which event its annexation to the Rajah's dominions would be a measure of expediency, both as an accession of resources to the Rajah, which will have proved to be politically desirable and as a further demonstration of the sincerity of our desire to compensate to a certain extent for the losses sustained during the last war.

To—MEER KHAN

Written 16th October 1809

I have been regularly apprized by the ordinary sources of intelligence of your approach with a large force towards the territories of His Highness Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, of the demands which you have made upon His Highness in the name of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar, and of the negotiations which have

taken place on the subject of those demands between His Highness and you I have also recently been informed of your having actually invaded and been employed in subjugating His Highness's territory of Garrah Mandla and it is confidently reported that you have resolved to carry your arms across the Nerbudda with a view to the entire conquest of the Rajah's dominions.

I am unwilling to believe that you really entertain this design of endeavouring to subvert one of the principal states of the Deccan and to establish your own power on its ruins but the report of a project of such magnitude which is calculated to disturb the established order of things in India and to lay the foundation of anarchy and disorder in the Deccan is a subject of immediate concern to the neighbouring Governments nor can I tacitly contemplate the approach of a numerous army to the very of the territory of an ally of the British Government. Independently even of the requirement of the dominions of a regular state contiguous to those of His Highness the Nizam the expected approach alone of a foreign army to the vicinity of the latter is an event that requires on the part of His Highness the Nizam and his ally the British Government the adoption of measures of vigilance and security. But when to that is added the apprehension that the object of its approach is the actual subversion of the dominion of one of the substantive powers of the Deccan connected also in the bonds of amity with His Highness the Nizam and the British Government by the obligations of Treaty it becomes the duty of that Government and its allies to endeavour in the first instance by friendly advice and remonstrance to avert the evils attending such irregular and improper designs, and at the same time to adopt those measures of precaution which the occasion requires.

I cannot admit the plea that you are acting under the orders of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar because it is impossible to suppose that the Maharajah could either authorize the prosecution of the measures directed to the subjugation of the territories of one of the greatest of the Chiefs of his own tribe or that possessing as he does a sincere desire to maintain the relations of perfect amity and confidence with the British Government and its allies he could sanction a project tending so directly to sow the seeds of doubt and suspicion in their minds and to disturb the foundations of existing harmony and concord. It is indeed well known that you have entirely separated your interests and concerns from those of the Maharajah.

For these reasons I must consider your late measures and your present views as proceeding entirely from yourself. I therefore address myself directly to you and as it is impossible for the British Government and its allies to acquiesce in the prosecution of such designs against the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and as they have consequently taken the resolution to oppose them if unhappily you should persevere in the excess of them, I must express my hope that you will abstain from the prosecution of those designs and

that if you should actually have crossed the Nerbudda you will become sensible that the continuance of your army in that position is incompatible with preservation of confidence and harmony, and will gratify the wishes of the British Government and its allies by immediately withdrawing it for in a case of this kind the interests of Maharajah Raghojee Bhonsla and those of the British Government and its allies are one and the same

As the demands that you have made upon Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla are preferred in the name of Maharajah Jeswant Rao Holkar the British Government and its allies will be disposed to become the medium of their amicable adjustment upon principles of strict equity and justice between those chiefs. The intervention of your power can neither be necessary nor proper

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To—RAJAH RAGHOJEE BHONSLA

Written 16th October 1809

I have received with sentiments of extreme concern the information of the actual invasion of your territories north of the Nerbudda by the troops of Meer Khan and of his intention of crossing that river in the prosecution of his further violent and unwarrantable designs. Although I trust that your Highness's exertions will succeed in repelling this invasion, yet on the grounds of the subsisting cordial amity between the two states as well as on general principles of proper precaution, I have resolved in concert with the allies to assemble a considerable force on the eastern side of Berar and to oppose the execution of Meer Khan's improper designs or to compell his retreat if he should actually have advanced to the southward of the Nerbudda

I have accordingly addressed a letter to Meer Khan advising him to abstain from the prosecution of his ambitious projects and apprizing him of the above resolution and a copy of that letter will be communicated to you for your information by Mr Jenkins to whose verbal representations I beg leave to refer you for further particulars and with whom I request your Highness will communicate on the subject of your if Meer Khan should disregard the admonition contained in my letter

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government

Letter No 7—The letter mentions that the Pindaries under Meer Khan and Shahamat Khan had crossed the Nerbudda that skirmishes had taken place between them and Sadik Khan Bhonsla's Commander had been surrounded and that Bhonsla's troops had been stationed to encounter them

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE RESIDENT AT POONA

Nagpur the 31st October 1809.

Yesterday morning I received a report that Shahamat Khan with about 1,000 Pathan horse and some Pindaries had crossed the Nerbudda at Telwarry I wrote a note to enquire whether the Raja had any intelligence on the subject to which I received an answer that the Rajah had received reports by a Sawar that some Pindaries had crossed but no certain accounts.

2 In the evening Jeswant Rao came to visit me and persisted in the same account which he said he had heard personally from the Rajah to whom he had immediately shown my note. He informed me that Amrut Rao Bukshi who was encamped beyond Chapara with about 5,000 horse and Infantry and 6 guns had sent his heavy baggage hither and proceeded to form a junction with Sadik Ali at or near Simnugger

3 I described to Jeswant Rao the accounts which I had heard, and I told him that my object in enquiring was to convey to you the earliest and most correct intelligence which of course would be received by the Rajah's Government your operations I said would probably be much influenced by intelligence from this quarter Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah had desired him to assure me that he would communicate any correct accounts which might reach him, as soon as they arrived and that he expected in the course of the evening to receive more particular reports than the present, of which he would not fail to apprise me.

4 I still continued to hear reports of a large body of horse having passed the river and even of skirmishes having taken place with Sadik Ali Khan Between 8 and 9 o'clock p.m. Jaikishan Pandit visited me. He said he had been sent by the Rajah to read to me a letter which had that moment arrived from Sadik Ali Khan The letter was dated the 17th Ramzan or 27th October and stated in substance, that he had already written accounts of previous occurrences to the Rajah that the enemy had surrounded him, with his horse that he had skirmished with them successfully and was then endeavouring to amuse the enemy with negotiating on his demands for money until Amrut Rao Bukshee might join his Camp That the Rajah need be under no alarm for that when the Bukshee arrived he thought the two forces in conjunction would be more than a match for the enemy

5. I endeavoured to ascertain from Jaikishan Pandit what might have been the communications to which the letter referred and whether the Rajah knew the number of the enemy which had crossed or the Chief who commanded them, but I could not succeed in drawing particulars from him, whether the Durbar was ashamed to own what would tend to show the insincerity of its former communications which I am inclined to believe is the case, or that particulars had not reached the Rajah. I thought however that I could collect from Jaikishan Pandit's replies, that there was some reason to believe Meer Khan to have crossed the river in person.

6. In speaking of the collective amount of the Rajah's forces to the northward, Jaikishan Pandit allowed that they were under 15,000 men, although they were called 20 or 30 thousand and he said that the Rajah might be able to muster between four and five thousand at Nagpur, including about 2,000 which are all His Highness has with him at Ramtek. There are only four guns with the Rajah at this place, but between 20 and 30 at Nagpur not, however, I am afraid in any complete state of equipment.

7. Since I commenced this dispatch I have heard from some Hircarrahs of my own, and from my news writer at Mundla that Meer Khan has crossed in person, that Shahamat Khan who was encamped at the Telwarry Ghat had refused to obey Meer Khan's orders to proceed in front, and that the force which Meer Khan has brought with him consists of 9,000 Pathan horse and 2,000 Pindaries with 5 guns.

8. I am in momentary expectation of a visit from Jeswant Rao, and I shall not close this dispatch until I can communicate the result of his visit.

P S—I have this instant received accounts direct from Meer Khan's Camp on this side of the Nerbudda, by which it appears that he has crossed with about 12,000 horse and 7 guns and is encamped within three coss of Sadik Ali Khan. Jeswant Rao who has just visited me mentioned nothing which it is particularly necessary to add to this dispatch, but pressed the rapid advance of the British troops and if possible, of a small detachment of 2 or three battalions for the immediate aid of the Rajah. I, of course, did not encourage the latter hope, but said generally that you would no doubt be desirous of making every possible haste to relieve the Rajah.

Letter No 8—The letter describes the disposition of the Bhonsla towards the British offer of driving out the Pindaries and the movements of the Pindari leaders.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE, RESIDENT AT POONA

Camp at Ramtek, the 4th November 1809

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of my official dispatch No 8 of this date to the address of the Right Honourable the Governor-General.

2. From its contents you will observe that the Governor General's letter to the Rajah has not afforded to His Highness that complete satisfaction which it was calculated to produce on a mind less distrustful and suspicious and that the confidence with which His Highness appeared to meet my communication of the generous and disinterested intentions of Government has been somewhat shaken by the circumstance of the assurances which I gave him that the support to be afforded was to be gratuitous not being expressly mentioned in that letter. As a mere instance of His Highness's suspicious temper and jealousy of our views I confess I am not inclined to look on this incident in any light inconsistent with the sentiments which I expressed in my dispatch of the 2nd instant with regard to His Highness's feelings on the subject of our support if gratuitously granted. With these impressions I made the suggestion to His Highness mentioned in the 10th paragraph of my address to the Governor-General and it seemed to meet His Highness's entire approbation.

3. It has occurred to me that a letter from you to the Rajah communicating your departure from Hyderabad and the orders which you have received to afford the contemplated support to His Highness against Meer Khan and mentioning at the same time that this support was to be gratuitous and unconditional might have the effect of giving immediate confidence to His Highness by adding the weight of your authority to my representations. I offer this suggestion with due deference to your superior judgment.

4. In my dispatch of the 2nd instant I had the honour to mention the accounts which had been received of Meer Khan's retrograde movement. I received a note this morning from Jeswant Rao informing me that intelligence had last night reached the Rajah that Meer Khan has recrossed the Nerbudda with all his force, and that the Rajah's two armies had united and were about to move in advance.

5. On this event or the causes of it I will not at present offer any opinion, as well because the intelligence does not seem to be yet entirely authenticated as that I am not furnished with concomitant facts sufficient to enable me to form any correct or confident judgment.

I have to honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

R. JENKINS

Acting Resident at Nagpur

The same as the above to —

1. Captain Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad dated 5th November 1809.

Letter No. 9.—Colonel Close intimates what he proposes to do in the accomplishment of his task of encountering and expelling Meer Khan and requests Jenkins to procure certain facilities from the Rajah for the British army when it enters his dominions.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE, NORTH BANK OF THE
GODAVERY, KHAIR

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Khair, the 6th November 1809

I am just honoured with your dispatch of the 24th October, which is so full and satisfactory relative to every subject on which I was desirous of being promptly informed, as to have completely anticipated the objects of my letter dated the 26th ultimo

As the Rajah has, with cordiality and gratitude, accepted the liberal offer of the British Government, to protect him against the unjust and rapacious projects of Meer Khan, I have but one object for immediate attention which is, to assemble at Amraoti as soon as possible, the force destined to be employed

I shall be at Jalna by the 12th instant, and have the prospect of being able to march from thence with the troops of Horse Artillery, 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry and four Battalions of Native Infantry, with a suitable proportion of Artillery in time to reach Amraoti by the 1st December and before that date, I shall probably be joined by His Majesty's 22nd Dragoons and the extra troops of Horse Artillery from the Karnatik This force accompanied by a select Corps of His Highness the Nizam's Troops, will be strong enough to cross the Wardha and operate in the Rajah's territories immediately against the Enemy for the purpose in view But a detachment of 1 Regiment of European Infantry and three Native Battalions, is about to march under Lieutenant Colonel Conran from Hyderabad, for Amraoti, by the direct line of Nanded and Basim in order to join me in advance by such concerted movements as the circumstances of the juncture may require The whole force destined to be employed then, will consist of two troops of Horse Artillery, 1 Regiment of Dragoons, 5 Regiments of Native Cavalry, 1 Regiment of European Infantry and 7 Native Battalions, with upwards of 40 Field pieces The object of the Governor-General's letter to Meer Khan being to prevent that Chief from crossing the Nerbudda, it is extremely desirable that the whole of the Rajah's ingenuity and military resources should be employed to favour its having that effect, until the British Force can be sufficiently advanced to cover the Rajah's territory and particularly Nagpore

By late dispatch from the Acting Resident at Sindhia's Durbar, it would appear that Balaram Sait was secretly united with the party which obliged Ghuffoor Khan to quit Holkar's Camp However this may be, a late Akbar from the Northward mentions

that a salute was fired in Holkar's Camp as a demonstration of joy on account of Meer Khan's success at Jubbulpore against the Rajah's troops

As the service proceeds you will give your attention to the article of supplies. Rice and Chana, are the grains which will be most wanted and the dealers of the Rajah's territories may be assured of the fullest security and of finding our camp Bazar regulated on the fairest principles. Bunjaries from Nagpur constantly frequent Berar and I shall be happy to be informed of any proposals which may be received from them or any engagements they may be brought to conclude for the supply of our troops in the Field. I am not informed whether it is usual with the Rajah to form magazines of provisions for the subsistence of his troops but if he be prevailed on to store grains at the present juncture at convenient places you can apprize the Minister that Rice and Chana are most wanted for the consumption of the British Troops

I shall keep you regularly informed of my progress, and be much gratified by hearing from you frequently on the service.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

B CLOSE

Colonel

Letter No 10.—Colonel Close wants to know the real cause of Meer Khan's retreat and intimates that he will arrive at Jalna on 12th November

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Dated the 11th November 1809.

I have to acknowledge your dispatches of the 2nd and 4th instant, the latter accompanied by your address No 8 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

If Meer Khan has actually recrossed the Nerbudda with his whole force, his retreat must be owing to some cause besides the juncture of the Rajah's troops under Amrut Rao Buxshee, as he would scarcely have crossed the river in force without knowing the number and description of the troops which the Rajah had in advance to oppose him, and if the Governor-General's letter had previously reached him it would scarcely have occasioned so decided and sudden a change in his proceedings. To ascertain the real circumstances then, which have induced him to retire in such haste seems to be important, as it may afford a clue to the motives

which induce the Rajah to manifest so much suspicion of the uprightness of Government, and so little disposition to make you satisfactorily acquainted with the real state of his means and preparations and the particulars of the intelligence which he receives from the frontier

I shall be happy to learn from you at an early period, how far it may be likely that Bunjaries from the Rajah's territories may be permitted to frequent the British Bazar when the troops arrive in Berar

I shall be at Jalna tomorrow and from thence address a letter to the Rajah, referring to the particulars which you have lately imparted to him from the Governor-General and intimating my arrival at Jalna, and my intention to march for the vicinity of Amraoti without loss of time

I would avoid giving him any assurances on the point which had led to his addressing the Governor-General, both because he will probably receive an answer from his Lordship in a short period, and because it is desirable that nothing should occur to afford His Highness the means of inference even, that any of your communications to him can be regarded as requiring confirmation

Letter No. 11—The letter conveys information about the movements of Meer Khan, the military disposition of Bhonsla's troops and British troops, and the plans of the British Government to attack Meer Khan

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL MARTINDELL, OFFICER COMMANDING IN BUNDELKHAND

Camp Ramtek, the 14th November 1809

I have the honour to transmit for your notice an extract from a letter which I have just received from Colonel Close

2 You will of course have received instructions from the Government of Bengal on the subject of the service in contemplation to arrest the execution of the designs of Meer Khan against the state of Nagpur, and of the general military and political powers entrusted to Colonel Close in all points connected with that service including the direction of the operations of the British Troops assembled in Bundelkhand, if their employment should become expedient to reduce that power of that Chief

Previously to the receipt of the Governor-General's letter requiring him to desist from the prosecuting of his ambitious projects in this quarter, Meer Khan had recrossed the Nerbudda; but the Rajah's Commander Sadik Ali Khan prevailed upon him to recross that river under promises of a considerable pecuniary contribution, which however, were entirely deceitful and made

with the object of deferring the period of more serious hostilities until the junction of reinforcements from this quarter which has since taken place.

On Meer Khan's return to his encampment in Garrah Mandla he received Governor-General's letter and I yesterday forwarded to Fort St. George his reply which he accompanied by a letter to my address. From the contents of the latter document it appears evident that he is not inclined to submit and he expressly says that if the British Government persists in its interference, he will invade the British territories.

Under these circumstances I am of opinion that your immediate attention should be directed to the objects pointed out in Colonel's (?) dispatch. The first object of course appears to be to advance the force under your command if in a state of preparation for that purpose to such a point as shall at once threaten Meer Khan's rear and enable you eventually to occupy Seronje, and the other places in his possession in that quarter. The Rajah's Army is now advanced to the Telwarry Ghat with the intention of prosecuting offensive hostilities against Meer Khan but I do not consider it unlikely that he may endeavour to get into its rear by crossing the Nerbudda at another point which would enable him to gain the start and if he were active, to fall on Nagpur which would be totally unprotected at least against such an army as his and the British forces under Colonel Close are not expected to be in advance before the 1st December.

Meer Khan himself I understand has moved to Palhun on leaving the advance of the Rajah's troops. The object of his movement does not yet appear but it is reported to be intended to permit the Raja's troops to cross the Nerbudda, and to secure his baggage whilst he falls on the enemy to advantage with his horse. A successful battle would render still more probable the immediate prosecution of his designs against the capital which would then be completely uncovered. Should you therefore receive intelligence of Meer Khan again crossing the Nerbudda, it would be still more necessary for the British force in Bundelkhand to make immediately such movements and even to undertake such offensive operations as local circumstances may appear to you to render judicious and useful to alarm Meer Khan for his rear and baggage, which he would probably detach in that case to a more northerly position. His family too is represented to be at Shergurh, a fort situated between Seronje and Kotta and it is reasonable to think that any forward movement of your force might give him apprehensions for their safety.

The Rajah has at present no troops in Garrah Mandla, but he has a force of two or three thousand infantry at Chynpore, towards which place a body of Pindaries are said to be advancing according to agreements with this Government for the purpose of falling on Meer Khan's baggage. The forts of Dhamoonce, Tejgarh and Mandla are still in the Rajah's possession the former is said to be

at present invested by Rajah Murdan Singh of Garrah Kota, the friend and ally of Meer Khan. By every account Beenayuk Rao of Saugor is only sub-servient to Meer Khan from the immediate impression of fear, and he is said to be only waiting for a favourable occasion to manifest his hostile disposition towards that Chief by joining in his expulsion from that quarter.

I shall desire that orders may be sent to any of the Rajah's Commanders of troops or forts which may eventually be in a position to render it necessary or useful, to correspond with you and to pay every attention in their power to your communications for the common benefit.

About the 1st of December Colonel Close expects to be at Amraoti, about 96 miles from hence, with His Majesty's 22nd Dragoons, five regiments of native cavalry, two troops of horse artillery and four battalions of native infantry. The battalions of native infantry and one regiment of European infantry are by this time on their march from Hyderabad to the same place, which will make the army of the Deccan consist of two troops of Horse Artillery, one regiment of Dragoons, five regiments of Native Cavalry, one regiment of European Infantry and seven Native battalions with upwards of 40 Field pieces independently of select corps of the Nizam's and Mysore troops, which are to be attached to the Army.

Letter No 12—It is an important letter. Jenkins describes his discussion with Jeswant Rao regarding the intention of the British Government in undertaking a campaign against Meer Khan, the preparation made for it, and the assistance required from the Bhonsla to further the project.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CLOSE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 16th November 1809

I have had the honour to receive your letters of the 6th and 8th instant, and should sooner have replied to the former could I have given you any decided information on the subject of Bunjarries and supplies.

2 Immediately on its receipt I set to enquire into the present state of the corn trade of the Rajah's territories and to ascertain the extent to which I might be able to procure engagements from dealers, but from some circumstances which formerly occurred with regard to Bunjarries who were carrying grain to Berar and were in consequence entirely plundered by Nana Sahib, the Bunjarries require security from the Rajah before they can venture to enter into any terms whatever. I had at the same time communicated Meer Khan's letter to my address to the Rajah and intimated to Jeswant Rao that I wished to see him as soon as possible on business.

3 Jeswant Rao did not visit me until yesterday. He then communicated to me the contents of a letter which had been received from Sadik Ali Khan and Amrut Rao Buxshee mentioning that they had crossed the Nerbudda at the Telburry Ghat on the 13th instant and that Meer Khan had fallen back about four coss to Patrun and sent his baggage still further in the rear. The Rajah's army had left all its baggage at Sirnaggar. The letters represented Meer Khan's retrograde movement as the consequence of fear and signified an intention of shortly attacking him to which Ghatgay was particularly inclined and threatened to do it with his own small force if his colleagues would not shortly determine upon such a measure.

4. I told Jeswant Rao that I thought Meer Khan had probably other views in declining to oppose the passage of the Nerbudda since he had before shown that he was not afraid of the Rajah's armies. I hope he would not be able to gain the rear of His Highness's forces by crossing a body of horse at another Ghat which would be a serious consideration in the event of an unsuccessful battle on the part of Sadik Ali but of course I said Sadik Ali would be aware of any dangers of that sort if they existed.

5 I then mentioned that as an unsuccessful battle might open the way for Meer Khan to the capital, it would be a great point that it should if possible, be postponed until you should be nearer and able eventually to cover Nagpur the plunder of which must be a great object to Meer Khan's hungry troops.

6. Jeswant Rao said that Meer Khan had of course his own plans, and he mentioned that he was in expectation of the early arrival of his battalions from the northward with which he had about 50 guns as well as of Kureem's Dhurrah who had agreed to join him. Meer Khan had tried also to induce the Pindaries who were under engagements with the Rajah to unite with him but without effect.

7 Jeswant Rao then alluded to Meer Khan's letter at the contents of which he said the Rajah was surprized as he could hardly have thought Meer Khan's presumption would have been so great, as not only to refuse compliance with the Governor-General's injunctions but to threaten even the British territories. He asked what would be done.

8 I replied that I had sent a copy of it to you, and had also forwarded one with Meer Khan's reply to the Governor-General, that from Meer Khan's expressions it was still more evident that if his designs on the Rajah had succeeded they would not have rested there, and there was nothing in it which did not demonstrate the necessity of repressing his irregular and ambitious designs.

9. I then mentioned that it would be proper for the commander of His Highness's troops in advance to open a correspondence with the British officer in Bundelkhand from which

province a force was preparing to co-operate according to circumstances I thought this a proper occasion for communicating the further liberal intentions of Government to give the Rajah Seronje and other places belonging to Meer Khan in that quarter, should the event of hostilities put them at our disposal, and I remarked that this intention, when known to the Rajah would be an additional proof, were any wanting, of the generous friendship of the Governor-General who wished to extend the Rajah's power and dominions and as His Lordship had before declared, only waited for an occasion in which it could be done upon those principles of justice and honour which always regulated the views and conduct of the British Government.

10 Jeswant Rao said that the intention which I had mentioned was indeed a proof that the promises of the British Government whether they related to immediate or future conjunctures, were never made in vain, and His Highness had always relied upon those which the Governor-General had afforded to him in the confidence that they would be performed Jeswant Rao added that orders would be sent to Sadik Ali Khan immediately to open a correspondence with the Commander of the British troops in Bundelkhand to whom he would send a Karkoon to keep up a mutual intelligence and to be the medium of communication on points relating to the common cause

11 I then mentioned that I had heard from you on a subject in which the Rajah might probably have it in his power to contribute considerable benefit to the common cause I alluded I said to the article of supplies which were a very important consideration in the scale of military operations, and I asked whether the Rajah had any magazines of provisions for the use of his armies Jeswant Rao replied in the negative, and mentioned that it was not customary with the Rajah to make depots of grain, and that this was not well calculated for them, from the paucity of fortified places There were generally plenty of Bunjaries who frequented the armies, and brought grain from the surrounding country The principal Bunjaries he said were inhabitants of Malwa and they only required to be invited to attend in any numbers

12 I desired Jeswant Rao to suggest to the Rajah that there were two modes in which His Highness might forward the service The first was to let me have His Highness's Cowle for all Bunjaries who might chose to engage to carry supplies to the British forces from any part of His Highness's dominions, which would remove their present backwardness to enter into terms with me The second was to establish depots of grain in convenient positions, which would afford still greater facility to the movements of the British troops I said I need not mention to Jeswant Rao the fair and honourable principles on which the Bazars of British Camps were regulated and His Highness might be assured of that regarding the dealers of his territories with the British Camp.

13. Jeswant Rao said that he would mention the subject to the Rajah and let me know His Highness's sentiments. I told Jeswant Rao that the service would now be pressing and I hoped His Highness would soon favour me with an answer. I also mentioned that rice and chuna would be the principal articles required.

14. I wrote again to Jeswant Rao this morning requesting that the Cowle I had required might be sent me in order that I might commence negotiating with any Bunjaries who might be at hand. Jeswant Rao has promised me an answer in the evening for which I am still waiting.

15. Immediately on the receipt of your dispatch of the 8th I addressed the letter to the Officer Commanding in Bundelkhand of which the enclosed is a copy. I sent the duplicate of it to be forwarded to the Rajah's Commander in Gurreh Mandla for the purpose of being delivered by the Carcoon who is to be dispatched to Bundelkhand and at the same time informed Colonel Martindell of the advance of the Rajah's army across the Nerbudda. Jeswant Rao has informed me by note since I commenced this dispatch that the whole army had advanced to Jubbulpore and that as the enemy was but a few coss distant a battle might be expected. I am laying a Dawke to the Nerbudda to take the first advantage of Meer Khan's movement from Garrah Mandla to extend it to Bundelkhand.

16. I am sorry it is not in my power to afford you any information you mention in the last paragraph of your letter of the 8th. I shall forward an extract from your letter to the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand who may probably be able to furnish any geographical description which may exist of most of those countries and I think it likely that the Acting Resident in Sindhia's Camp may have some survey of the country from Saugor to Nerwa.

P S—I have omitted to mention that Jeswant Rao in the conference which I have described above said that the Rajah desired him to make particular enquiries about your movements and to express his hope that you would soon be on the vicinity of Amraoti.

Letter No 13.—Jenkins reports the details of the defeat of Meer Khan and his expulsion by Sadik Ali Khan, the Commander of Bhonsla.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Nagpur the 22nd November 1809

I had yesterday the honour to mention the intelligence communicated to me by Jeswant Rao of the defeat of Meer Khan by the Rajah's troops in the evening. Jeswant Rao visited me.

2 He said he was sent by the Rajah to reply to my friendly congratulations, and to offer those of His Highness to me, in return, on an event so auspicious to the views and wishes of the two states. The Rajah, he proceeded, on the receipt of my note requesting the communication of particulars, had ordered him to read to me the letters which His Highness had received from Sadik Ali and Amrut Rao relating the circumstances of the battle.

3 These papers Jeswant Rao accordingly read to me. They were in substance that the Rajah's Commanders had pursued their march from Jubbulpore in the hope of bringing Meer Khan to a battle near Katangi, but that on their arrival there they found that Meer Khan had marched from thence to the Jubra Ghat near Tejgarh, and about eight Gondi Coss from Katangi (probably 22 miles), that immediately on their arrival at Katangi they determined to endeavour to surprize Meer Khan in his encampment and that accordingly very early on the morning of Friday, the 17th instant, Sadik Ali Khan moved off with all the infantry and guns, but before he could reach the enemy the day had broke and Meer Khan had previously sent his baggage with his infantry and guns across the Ghat remaining himself only with his best horse and four or five small guns. Sadik Ali began the battle with the infantry and guns, and kept up a heavy fire until he was supported by the whole of the Rajah's horse, as when the action became general and close, many were killed and wounded on both sides, and towards evening Meer Khan left the Rajah's troops in possession of the field of battle with four elephants, nearly a thousand horses, many standards amongst which some were of note and prisoners of rank.

4 The loss of the enemy was supposed to have been great as well as that of the Rajah's forces, which however was not yet ascertained. Although some respectable persons were known to have been slain Ghulam Haider Bukshee particularly distinguished himself on this occasion and bore a great part of the brunt of the enemy's charges which were desperate and bold, but ultimately defeated. Sadik Ali also speaks of Ghatgay's exploits in terms of great praise, as well as of the conduct of the Rajah's Pagah, and its Chiefs. After the battle Meer Khan was said to have passed the Ghat, and marched seven coss, and Sadik Ali Khan encamped on the spot as his troops were too much harassed to pursue. He hoped to get possession of those of the enemy's guns which were in the action and which he believed he had not carried away beyond the Ghat, and other accounts reported that Meer Khan was himself wounded, and many of his principal Sirdars slain.

5 When Jeswant Rao had concluded the letter, I expressed myself highly gratified with their contents, and said, I was sure the Governor-General and yourself would be highly gratified with an event which vindicated the honour of the Rajah's Government so long presumptuously insulted by Meer Khan and promised still fairer prospects of victory over lawless plunder and rapine,

6. I asked Jeswant Rao what was anticipated with regard to the future proceedings of Meer Khan. Jeswant Rao replied that the Rajah thought he might either join his battalions or go to Holkar's Camp if he did not renew his incursions. In 7 day or two more would be known about his motions which would alight upon his intentions in these respects. His battalions were not yet arrived in the vicinity and Balarum Sait was his enemy in Holkar's Camp. He added that he had to correct what he had told me before about the Pindaries who had joined Meer Khan. They were Dost Mohammeds and not Karims Dhurrah.

7. I asked where the Pindaries were who had engaged with this Government. He said that by the last accounts they were at Bhopal and they would probably harass Meer Khan in his retreat. Jeswant Rao made further enquiries about your movements and whether the Bundelkhand force would undertake any offensive operations against Meer Khan. I communicated what I knew of your movements from your despatch of the 17th instant which I had the honour to receive yesterday and with regard to the Bundelkhand force I said I had not yet heard of its having advanced to the frontier and that its operations would depend upon your orders.

8. I again pressed Jeswant Rao on the subject of the Banjaras who have not yet been with me and he again promised that they should come to me, and excused the delay which had occurred on the grounds of the present Hindu festival which kept the Rajah and his ministers almost entirely at the temple from which he himself had been sent to me by the Rajah.

9. The circumstances which have led to Meer Khan's retreat and to the occurrence of the 17th so unexpectedly favourable to the Rajah's cause seem to require some development. In a private letter which I received yesterday from the Governor General's Agent in Bundelkhand dated the 10th instant in acknowledgment of the letter which I addressed to him respecting the force at Kuckerouttee as mentioned in my dispatch of the 29th ultimo he informs me that he should instantly suggest to the Commanding Officer in Bundelkhand to make that force consisting originally of seven companies of Infantry two six pounders and a troop of cavalry of sufficient strength to maintain that position. This would probably have been immediately done.

10. Meer Khan moved from Telwarry to Jubbulpore I believe on the 12th. Sadik Ali crossed the Nerbudda on the 13th and probably on the same day Meer Khan recrossed the Hirree Nadi and encamped on this side of Katangi. Meer Khan appears to have remained near that position till the 15th or 16th and to have marched again on one of these dates to the Jubra Ghat always sending his baggage one day in advance together with his infantry and the greater part of his guns including those which he had taken in Garrah Mandla.

11 Meer Khan would doubtless be aware of the probability of his real being menaced from Bundelkhand, although he might or might not have heard of any movements of troops in that quarter and that with the Rajah's army in his front he might be hampered in his retreat from Garrah Mandla. The Governor-General's letter would of course have its influence on his mind however he might wish to conceal it by the outward display of insolence and disregard. It is probable therefore that to these united causes more than to anyone in particular, may be attributed his determination to evacuate the province.

The same as the above to —

Captain Sydenham, dated 23rd

H Russell, Esq, dated 24th

Lieutenant R Close, dated 25th

Letter No 14—This letter indicates the route that Colonel Close was to take from Wardha. He had arrived at Amraoti on 1st December.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE

Ramtek, the 3rd December 1809

I have just received the Rajah's reply to my enquiries about the route by which he wishes you to proceed to Pandhurna. Jeswant Rao writes me that the Rajah intended to have mentioned me yesterday Amner as the best route to Pandhurna, and that the road to Amner by Waroor, Ghal and Poosul was preferable to that by Ashti which is very long and bad.

I lose no time in mentioning this to you as it seems to show that His Highness would prefer that you should not move by the Ashti route.

Letter No 15—This letter along with its enclosures are important. They refer to the determination of Meer Khan to wage war against the Bhonsla and the British Government if the latter interfered in favour of the Bhonsla. Meer Khan had intimated the Governor-General about it. They also carry the decision of the Commander-in-Chief about the plan of operation and the military force and equipments which will be required for the purpose.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE, AMRAOTI

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, FORT ST GEORGE

Amraoti, the 2nd December 1809

Yesterday I had the honour to receive from the Acting Chief Secretary at Fort William a despatch, dated 7th November, relative to the force which is proposed to be assembled in Bundelkhand, of which a copy I conclude, has been transmitted for the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

Meer Khan in his second letter to His Lordship which I have just forwarded by express has openly avowed his intention to persevere in hostilities against the Rajah of Nagpur and to make war with the English if the British Government interfere to prevent the execution of that intention and in order to show that he is sincere in making the declaration has moved to Deori accompanied by Vazeer Mohammed Khan of Bhopal. As affairs have arrived at this advanced stage, I conclude that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General will give directions that the general plan of operations mentioned in your dispatch to Mr Jenkins of the 18th October for eventual adoption against Meer Khan be proceeded upon by which the force assembling in Bundelkhand would probably operate to most advantage by invading Seronge while the army from the Deccan should act direct against Meer Khan as circumstances might suggest. This Chief has at present a large corps of infantry with guns under Mohammed Shah Khan apparently subsisted by the Rajah of Jodhpore, which shows that his influence with that Government must be considerable. The province of Seronge serves him as a place of arms to support his views in maintaining the ascendancy which he has manifestly acquired in the principality of Bhopal and in prosecuting his plan of subjugating the Government of Nagpur. His ambitious projects at Holkar's Durbar are too well known to require being noticed by invading the Nagpur territory he has further ingratiated himself with the Government of Bhopal and his prevalence over the mind of Vazeer Mohammed Khan may be further inferred from the latter having embarked with him in his present career and given the fort of Raisseen to him as a safe retreat for his family. Supposing him to preserve the attachment of Tulsai Bai and by it to have the means of recovering the control which he acquired at Holkar's Durbar and that he should be permitted to reduce the Rajah of Nagpur to be even his tributary his resources would soon be such as to make him a respectable growing power on the Nerhudda whose future strides it would be impossible to calculate. From considerations such as these I am disposed to think that the combined attack on Meer Khan's power which I have adverted to will be put in execution. Under the impression I shall advance to the Wardha and if circumstances be suitable, from thence to Amnair where I shall be conveniently situated for covering Nagpur or proceeding to the Nerbuddah as occasion may require.

To—COLONEL CLOSE.

SIR

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General having requested that the Vice President in Council would take into his consideration the arrangements which should be adopted at this Presidency to protect the province of Bundelkhand from the incursions of Meer Khan and to enable the force employed on that service eventually to co-operate with your division and the question

having been referred to the Commander-in-Chief for his sentiments, I am directed to transmit to you for your information the accompanying copy of two letters and their enclosures from the Military Secretary to His Excellency, containing the plan which are proposed by him to be adopted with a view to the attainment of those important objects, and which have been ordered by Government to be accordingly carried into effect

Fort William
The 7th November 1809

G DOWDESWELL,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government

To—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, ESQ, ACTING CHIEF
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders of Government as conveyed in your letter to my address of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to acquaint you, that with a view of effecting the important objects proposed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General as they relate to the attack meditated by Meer Khan on the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, His Excellency has to recommend that the force now in Bundelkhand consisting of one Regiment of Native Cavalry, five Battalions of Native Infantry and one Company of Pioneers be immediately reinforced with one Company of European Artillery, two Regiments of Native Cavalry, His Majesty's 53rd Regiment and five Companies of Light Infantry to complete the Battalion under Major Kelly to 10 Companies. This arrangement would give a disposable force of 6,200 men as by delaying the relief of corps now in progress a sufficient force would be left for the protection of Bundelkhand, in the event of the field force being required to move out of the province

As it is not stated in the letter or memorandum received from the Governor-General what amount of force Meer Khan is supposed to be leading into the field, the Commander-in-Chief is not competent to determine with reference to his strength how far the force proposed to be collected in Bundelkhand may be deemed adequate to the effectual accomplishment of the objects in the contemplation of His Lordship, but as the force destined for the more important and pressing operations, under Colonel Close does not appear to exceed 8,800 Men, His Excellency is inclined to view the arrangement herein suggested, as sufficient to secure the province of Bundelkhand from any incursion of the enemy and to admit of such co-operation with Colonel Close's division as circumstances may be found to require

As this however happens to be the season for the relief of Corps, His Excellency will avail himself of that circumstance to give Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell the power of increasing his strength by postponing the departure of the corps intended to leave the province, until their services can securely be dispensed

with whereby he may immediately augment his force by one Native Battalion and add another by the 20th of next month. His Excellency will also direct Major-General St Leger to hold His Majesty's 8th Light Dragoons in readiness to move (as far as it may be done without entailing expense) whenever Lieutenant Colonel Martindell's report shall appear to him to render that measure expedient.

As soon as the foregoing arrangements shall receive the approbation of Government His Excellency will give the necessary orders for their immediate execution but adverting to the circumstances stated by the Governor-General in regard to the period when the Nerbudda river may be expected to be fordable and the impossibility of having the force under Colonel Close in readiness to prevent the troops of Meer Khan from crossing it His Excellency deeming it of importance that no time should be lost in making some demonstration on the side of Bundelkhand to excite the apprehensions of Meer Khan and thereby perhaps deter him from prosecuting his projected invasion of Berar caused orders to be forwarded by last night's Dak to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell to concentrate without delay the whole of his disposable force at such point as might appear to him with reference to Meer Khan's position etc best calculated to give effect to the object in view and His Excellency will be prepared to furnish that officer with such further instructions as the arrangements of Lord Minto appear to require, as soon as he is honoured with the further orders of Government.

It being of importance that a communication should be established between Colonel Close and Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell at the earliest practicable period His Excellency begs to recommend that the former officer be apprised by a direct communication from this Government, of the arrangements which it may be pleased to sanction and His Excellency will also direct Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell to use every exertion in his power to open a prompt communication with the Hyderabad detachment.

The Commander-in-Chief has also to request that Mr Richardson the Governor-General's Agent in Bundelkhand may be apprised of the intended plan of operations and directed to render Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell every assistance in his power in providing supplies of grain carriage, etc.

Enclosed is a return of the force intended for the service in question in which the probable period of the arrival of the several Corps in Bundelkhand is specified.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

Headquarters Calcutta
The 5th November 1809.

P CAREY
Military Secretary

To—GEORGE DOWDESWELL, Esq, ACTING CHIEF
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

SIR,

The Commander-in-Chief deeming it of importance with reference to the arrangements submitted in my letter to your address of yesterday's date, that there should be a sufficient battering train on the west bank of the Jamuna for any eventual operations which the probable hostilities with Meer Khan may render necessary. I am directed by His Excellency to enclose a memorandum of the establishments of guns, etc, which he thinks it would be expedient to detach to Kalpee, with the least possible delay and which I have accordingly to request you will be pleased to submit to the consideration of Government

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Headquarters Calcutta

P CAREY,

The 6th November 1809

Military Secretary

Proposed

Memoiandum—small battering train for Kalpee—

Four Iron 18 pounders—Mounted complete

Four Iron 12 pounders—Mounted complete

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete

Two Brass 5½-inch Mortars—Mounted complete

There are at present at Kalpee—

Two Iron 18-pounders—Mounted complete

Two Iron 12-pounders—Mounted complete

Two Brass 8-inch Howitzers—Mounted complete

These pieces were used at the late sieges in Bundelkhand and their carriages, particularly the wheels, being much shook, I sent for them to Cawnpore, and put them into complete repair, by new wheels, new checks, and whatever was required I sent them back in the month of June last

J HORSFORD,

Lt Colonel

Letter No 16—The letter is important because it indicates the northern boundary of Bhonsla's dominions and certain possessions beyond that boundary. It also gives the route that Colonel Close was to take to reach Pandhurna.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Ramtek the 4th December 1809

I was yesterday favoured with your letter of the 1st and this morning with that of the 2nd instant.

My official dispatches of yesterday will have made you acquainted with the latest intelligence I have or that has reached the Rajah of Meer Khan's proceedings. The Rajah has a Dawke of camel Hircarrahs to the Nerbudda who bring him news in I believe two days but he certainly does not take the steps for receiving early accounts which are in his power.

I had a writer in Meer Khan's Camp until he recrossed the Nerbudda when my intelligence was stopped but I hope soon to establish another and to get very quick accounts as I am joining a Dawke of Hircarrahs from that which is already established to Jubbulpore via Chaparah from the latter place to Chawalpatta. It certainly is of great importance that you should have the quickest accounts of Meer Khan's movements. I have often pressed this on the Ministers. Your advance will be of great benefit in that respect and if you should adopt the plan proposed by the Rajah of taking up a position at Pandhurna you can receive the quickest accounts. The roads to Nagpur both from Amner and Pandhurna are very good and the distance small.

Reports say that Sadik Ali is thinking of crossing the Nerbudda at the Kherpani or the Chawalpatta Ghat but I have as yet no correct intelligence. Neither have I heard of any movements in Bundelkhand.

Deori near which place Meer Khan is encamped has no connection with this Government. It pays tribute, as well as Saugor to Sindhia, and Meer Khan has several times gained possession of it, in the prosecution of similar claims on the part of Holkar.

The Rajah's frontier from Hoshangabad to Gurrah Mandla, was formerly the Nerbudda. He has now only possession to the northward of the river of the districts of Chainpore, Baree and Chaukigarh in Bhopal which I believe extend between those places and the Nerbudda. They were lately taken from the Nawab of Bhopal. The enclosed sketch of the Nerbudda fills up a claim which is void in all maps and is all the information which Mr Lloyd has yet been able to obtain of that quarter from want of some known place to work on which he has now obtained in Sangar from the Surveyor-General.

Besides the districts of Champore Baree, the Rajah's mother has Gunje Basoudee near Bhilsa, from Sindhia for Pawn Meer Khan in coming down took possession of it, but was gallant enough to restore it, and to give liberty to the old Lady's Dewan, whom he had carried away

With regard to the Nawab Salabat Khan the Rajah has made no direct intimation to me. Some time ago when it was expected you might come to Nagpur, Jeswant Rao gave some hints that if Salabat Khan should accompany you, as he was a great Sardar, the Rajah must receive him. To this the Rajah's mother had a great objection. That Rajah wished me to know this, although he did not wish his name to be used on the occasion. He had no objection to the troops but to the Nawab and Fattah Jung Khan. From this circumstance and from His Highness's request on a former occasion that the Nawab's troops might not accompany Col. Doveton in the pursuit of the Pindaries through his territories, I should infer that unless absolutely necessary the Rajah would be well pleased if they did not accompany the British troops.

There is another subject which the Rajah has not touched upon probably from delicacy or a fear of offending. This is the killing of beef in His Highness's territories, which is generally forbidden under severe penalties, although there are some particular places where it is tolerated or winked at, if done privately. It is not allowed publicly, I understand in any of his Camps, although it may be sometimes done underhand by his Musalman troops. An assurance on this subject, would I conceive be very gratifying to His Highness's feelings.

I have the pleasure to send you a surveyed route from Bisnoor to Amner by Ashti and Sawngee. My latter dispatch of yesterday will have made you acquainted with the Rajah's wishes on the subject of your route to Pandhurna. If you should have advanced to Bisnoor, His Highness would not of course object to the advance of the British troops through his territories, if necessary in your opinion.

Letter No 17—The letter reports how in an action on the 8th December Sadik Ali Khan Bhonsla's Commander defeated Amir Khan.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR
TO—COLONEL CLOSE

Ramtek, the 12th December 1809

Jeswant Rao visited me yesterday evening. He said he was sent by the Rajah to show me the letters which had been received from Sadik Ali Khan, and other accounts which had reached His Highness on the subject of the battle of the 8th instant.

Jeswant Rao accordingly read to me a letter from Sadik Ali dated on the day of the battle and an Akhbar of the subsequent morning. The account which these documents gave of the battle

was exactly the same as that which is described in the Akhbar which I have done myself the pleasure of forwarding to you in my private letter of this date. By this it appears that Meer Khan and the Nawab of Bhopal brought seven guns with them of which two were taken. The loss on the Rajah's side seems trifling and that on Meer Khan's part is undefined.

Sadik Ali adds to his description of the battle that from the immense body of Pindaries who had surrounded his Camp he could not pursue the enemy to any distance. Five thousand of Settoo's Dhurra under the two Runjuns accompanied the enemy which confirm the reports I formerly mentioned of their having been seduced by Vazeer Mohammed Khan from the Rajah's interests. Sadik Ali further complains that in consequence of the numerous bodies of Pindaries who beset his camp his supplies are very precarious and all kinds of provisions exceedingly dear.

When Jeswant Rao had received those documents I said that the success of the Rajah's arms was highly gratifying to me and would afford the greatest satisfaction to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General and you. I repeated my congratulations on so auspicious an event. I then asked Jeswant Rao whether Meer Khan was known to have recrossed the Nerbudda after the battle. Jeswant Rao replied in the negative, but that no particulars further than were contained in the papers he had read were yet received. There were reports he said by Hircarrahs that Meer Khan was wounded and the Nawab of Bhopal killed but he could not say what credit was to be attached to them.

I then alluded to the circumstances of Settoo's Dhurra having accompanied Meer Khan. Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah had asked the agent who was still here what it meant. His answer was that although they had accompanied Meer Khan in order to keep on terms with him, as the delays which occurred in the conclusion of their negotiations here left them still in some doubt as to the Rajah's ultimate intention yet that they had committed no act of hostility and the Agent pledged himself that the Dhurra would now fall upon Meer Khan.

I had before received an Akhabar from Jubbulpore mentioning Baptiste's approach to the Southward and had communicated it to Jeswant Rao who now asked if I knew to what to attribute that approach. I said I did not, but that some accounts mentioned Baptiste to be sent for the purpose of levying money at Saugor and Bhopal. Perhaps I said as Sindhia had been apprized of our resolution to oppose Meer Khan, and as he had also grounds of complaint against that Chief he might think the present a good opportunity for taking his revenge. I asked whether the Rajah had received any intimation of his approach.

Jeswant Rao replied that he had not, except by report, and that the Rajah would formerly have been much obliged if Sindhia would have sent Baptiste according to his repeated application but

that he could not conceive why he should now send troops in this direction

Nothing further of consequence passed

I have to correct an error in my second dispatch of the 10th instant. It is there stated that Meer Khan crossed the Nerbudda on the 7th and that the battle took place on the 8th instant. It is correctly mentioned in my first letter of that date the battle was on Thursday, the 7th, and Meer Khan crossed the river on Wednesday, the 6th instant.

The same as the above to—

- (1) Capt Sydenham
- (2) Lt Close, dated 13th December
- (3) H Russell, dated 14th December

Letter No. 18 —In this letter Close mentions the purposes for which the operations were planned against Meer Khan. These purposes were the security of Bhonsla's territories and of Company's possessions. In consequence of the benefits that will accrue to the Bhonsla he should be prepared to accept a Subsidiary Force.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Pandhurna, the 16th December 1809

I have this moment received your public and private letters of yesterday. To see you in Camp would afford me the highest gratification, but as a constant communication with the Rajah's Durbar is indispensable at this period, I am unwilling that it should suffer any interruption, even the shortest. Our hopes of meeting therefore must rest on some future occasion. The Rajah's affliction is naturally such as to make him incapable of business. In such a situation, it could not be expected that he could come forth to a public interview.

Meer Khan appears to have suffered materially in the action, and if it be true as the Akhbars state, that he has sent off his Baggage to Seronge, and that his horse have begun to leave him, his operations have probably ceased for the present season. Under this appearance it will be necessary to determine, how the British force assembled for the Rajah's protection, should be disposed of. The expense of keeping it in the Field is enormous. When it was ordered to the frontier, it was probably imagined that the service would terminate in the entire dispersion of Meer Khan's troops, and nearly the destruction of his power. In Mr Edmonstone's letter to you of the 18th October, the employment of a force from Bundelkhand, the taking of Seronge, and eventually giving it to the Rajah, are glanced at, and I should suppose that these measures were not contemplated without the notion, that for the benefits derivable from them, the Rajah would be disposed to accept a subsidiary force, which might be posted in advance and cover

Saugor and Seronge, keep Bhopal in order and rout the Pindaries and thus establish a line of connection between Bundelkhand and the Deccan. Such a plan if executed would extend the resources and prospects of the Nagpur Government and although bearing a little on its independence would give it lasting security. In the present situation of our troops Seronge might be seized with little delay and the whole plan put in execution in the course of the present season. My object in touching on these points is to learn your opinion whether if our Government should be disposed to give the Rajah a subsidiary force on easy terms His Highness could be prevailed on to accept it on a basis connected with the execution of the plan before noticed. It has always appeared to me that the greatest advantage derived by a Native Prince from accepting a British Subsidiary Force, is the security which it affords to his Government as he is personally concerned and the certainty of succession which it holds forth to the Dynasty. The Rajah's family seems to be circumstanced in such a manner as to make the attainment of such objects peculiarly valuable to it and this consideration alone should give his mind a bias towards the system of measures alluded to. I should not omit to observe, that I am not assured yet whether our Government would conceive that it could afford to give a Subsidiary Force to the Rajah on such easy terms as His Highness's disposition on the subject were generally known the adjustment of subordinate points might not be difficult. As Holkar's Dominion has fallen under the control of Meer Khan Government has had in consideration the practicability of withdrawing it from his superintendence, and establishing Holkar's son on the Musnud by means of a Subsidiary Force a plan which would connect Guzerat and the Deccan with the Jumna but circumstances do not appear to be sufficiently favourable. Yet for entering on the execution of such an extensive proceeding for establishing the line of connection between Bundelkhand and the Deccan on occasion so favourable as the present is not likely to occur again a point which should be seriously considered by both Governments independently of the foregoing subject. It is desirable to know whether Sadik Ali Khan has any plan in view at present, besides that of reducing Meer Khan to further extremities by pressing upon his rear.

Letter No 19.—Colonel Close discusses the reasons why the Bhonsla has become lukewarm in his desire to defeat and crush Meer Khan. The enclosures are important for the purpose. They are copies of letters from the Governor-General and form enclosures to Edmonstone's letter to Jenkins dated 18th December 1809

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE.

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Pandhurna, the 18th December 1809

I have the honour to acknowledge your dispatch of yesterday's date.

The result of the conversations, which you have lately held with the Rajah, induces me to advert to the following considerations.

The immediate object of assembling the British Force on the frontier, was to cover His Highness's capital and defend his Government against the hostile attempts of Meer Khan and his adherents. From the turn which affairs have taken and the sentiments which the Rajah has recently expressed that occasion seems to have ceased. Although His Highness is still at war with Meer Khan he does not appear to apprehend much inconvenience from the future efforts of that chieftain. The Nagpur troops have maintained a superiority for some time, though acting defensively, and from present appearances, both armies may long continue to operate on the Nerbuddah without any decided advantage being obtained by either. If in such a state of things, the British Force should advance to the Nerbudda, Meer Khan would have only to keep his army on the northern bank to be secure. The British Force could not with any propriety cross the Nerbudda to pursue him, as his rear would be so open as to allow him to retire to any distance and return again when it might suit his convenience. In crossing the river under such circumstances, the British Force could have no proportionate object. Unless Meer Khan, therefore, should advance from the river into the Rajah's territories, or that some joint plan of operation should be adopted, to dislodge him from the eastern side of Malwa, and establish the means of preventing his return, the British Force must, if kept together, become an army of observation, and it may be apprehended that the British Government will not be reconciled to the expense of keeping it in the field for the purpose merely of watching a tedious warfare which His Highness's Government may continue to carry on with Vazeer Mohammed and Meer Khan. His Highness from his expressions, seems to think that Meer Khan will soon retire to the westward, and abandon his present enterprize. It is not easy however to discover ground for such a conjecture. For some time past, Meer Khan has shown a decided inclination to establish himself on the southern parts of Malwa. He has formed an intimate friendship with Zalimsingh of Kota, who has accommodated him with Sheer Ghur as a place of retreat and he has got Seronge as a Military Depot. Vazeer Mohammed Khan to save himself from future dangers must assist him to the last extreme of his means and as a soldier of fortune, Meer Khan must know that to lose his reputation must be nearly equivalent to losing all. Supposing him to be much reduced, therefore, by his late ill-success, it may be expected that he will rather reinforce himself from Jodhpore and Seronge, and renew the attack, than give up his present scheme, and return to the westward with a broken reputation. Thus I think it may be seen that His Highness is not yet in the probability of being soon rid of his enemy or relieved from the expense of keeping a large army in the field. However this may be, I cannot be led to believe that Government will permit the British Force

to continue in the field as an army of observation and under this impression I shall keep the troops in such a disposition as that they may readily comply with any orders of recall from Government unless some proposition be received from His Highness of a nature to warrant a different disposition of the troops and be of importance sufficient to become a subject of reference to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General.

I propose to direct the division under Lieutenant-Colonel Conran to halt at some point on the Wardha until further orders.

To—AMEER KHAN

Written 16th December 1809.

I have received your two letters one in reply to my original letter the other acknowledging the receipt of the duplicate, and containing some additional matter recapitulate those received 23rd November and 15th December

You have written in your last letter that having come for the purpose of attacking the troops of the Rajah of Nagpur they proposed a payment of eleven lacs and half of rupees which you were not disposed to accept but that in the meantime my letter having arrived a desire to comply with my wishes induced you to accept that sum that you in consequence took hostages and retired delivering over the Rajah's places to his officers. Your reply to my original letter however certainly did not express any inclination to accede to my wish on the contrary it indicated an intention of prosecuting your designs and required that the British Government should not interfere in your disputes with the Maharaja. nay in the letter which you wrote at the same time to Mr Jenkins you observed, that "If the British Government should interfere, the Treaty would be violated and the flames of war would be rekindled to the injury of both parties. You added that your troops drew their subsistence from the southern Chiefs and required that the British Government should not prevent them from obtaining supplies otherwise on the principle of being of one tribe they would all unite and carry disorder and confusion in the British territory"

But as you have positively asserted you retreated in compliance with my wishes I shall not dispute that point. I must observe however that it is equally contrary to justice and to the object of the application for you to extort a contribution from the Maharaja

The British Government interfere for the protection of the Rajah because it is most evident you could have no just demand against the Rajah of Nagpur nor any right to seize his country
 so can it be expected that the British Government should suffer
 you to prosecute your because the Maharaja refuses
 to satisfy an agreement for money extorted from his officer by

the approach of your Army, and concluded without his orders, and without his knowledge Or after ascertaining that you have no right to extort a contribution from His Highness, how is it consistent with justice that I should aid you in enforcing it

You assert that you are acting with the orders of Maharaja Jeswant Rao Holkar But you will observe from the enclosed copy of the Maharaja's letter to me that he has no quarrel whatever with the Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla and that he has not sanctioned your proceedings against him, for the Maharajah writes "A friendship and fraternity have long subsisted between me and His Highness Raghojee Bhonsla in the spirit of the utmost degree of cordiality, accordingly when the Nabab Amir Uddoulah Bahadur crossed over into the Rajah's territories, I issued orders previously to my receipt of your Lordship's letter, directing him not only to abstain from doing any kind of injury to His Highness's territories, but to endeavour to extend his protection to them Now however that I have been favoured with your Lordship's kind letter I have dispatched successive letters to the Nabab repeating my former orders in the most peremptory manner

It is evident therefore that instead of acting under the Maharaja's orders, you have been acting in direct opposition to them, so that what I before wrote to you that your late measures and present views proceeded entirely from yourself and not from the orders of the Mahārāja is confirmed by the Maharaja himself

I know of no such engagements as you have mentioned in your first letter which preclude the British Government from protecting the territories of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla from invasion and conquest Besides which, the engagements of the British Government are with Maharaja Jeswant Rao Holkar, who far from considering its interference for the protection of the state of Nagpur as a violation of the treaty, unites with me in expecting you to abstain from molesting the Rajah's territory

You cannot therefore but admit the justice of the expectation expressed in my first letter that you should retire and refrain from any further molestation The injury which you have done must have occasioned the loss of lacs of rupees to the Raja

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE

To—JESWANT RAO HOLKAR

Written 18th December 1809

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (recapitulate that received the 9th December) and am much gratified by its contents

I judge it proper to transmit to you for your information copies of two letters from Amir Khan and also a copy of my reply You will observe that Amir-Khan far from complying

with your repeated requisitions after having plundered and possessed himself of the territory of Maharaja Raghojee Bhonsla north of the Nerbudda extorted an agreement from the Maharajah's officer for the payment of a large sum of money and because the Maharaja who never sanctioned any such agreement refused to ratify it he has resumed his designs against the Maharajah's territories and has resolved to make war with the British Government if it interferes to oppose them. As Amir Khan therefore is resolved upon prosecuting his unjust designs contrary to your orders and to the remonstrances of the British Government he has rendered himself equally your enemy and the enemy of that Government. It is a satisfaction to me to reflect that the measures necessary at present and the execution of his unwarrantable projects are calculated to draw still closer the bonds of amity and good understanding between the two states.

A true copy

N B EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government

Letter No 20.—The letter gives useful information about Meer Khan and his movements after his second defeat by Sadik Ali Khan.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—LIEUT-COLONEL MARTINDELL.

Camp Pandhurna the 23rd December 1809

I have this moment received a dispatch from Mr Jenkins in which he has honoured me with a copy of your letter to his address under date the 6th instant

Meer Khan after having been worsted by the Nagpur Army on his retreat from Jabhulpore took up a position in the vicinity of Deori while Sadik Ali Khan the Nagpur Commander returned to Jubbulpore, recrossed the river and marching down the left bank encamped near Shawpoor

At this period Meer Khan addressed a passionate letter to the Right Honourable the Governor-General stating that the Nagpur troops had managed to deprive him of a mad elephant, that the Rajah was bound to pay him fifteen lacks of rupees, that he would compel him to discharge the amount and besides have revenge for the insult he had sustained. He further observed, that although he might not consider himself equal to cope with the British arms he could hang on the front and rear of their army as to cause a destruction which would be sufficiently evident. Shortly after Meer Khan proceeded to put his threat in execution by crossing the river and attacking Sadik Ali Khan in his position near Shawpoor but having been worsted he returned to his former situation. This second discomfiture appears to have only

stimulated this desire of revenge and of retrieving his reputation and by Akhbars of the 19th from the Nerbudda, he is stated to be receiving reinforcements of infantry and guns for the purpose of making another attack on Sadik Ali, who is only able to act on the defensive

I have the pleasure of enclosing to you a sketch of the Nerbudda from Jubbulpoie to Hoshangabad, with its relative situation to the principal points in the neighbourhood of Bundelkhand

I conclude that this dispatch cannot reach you in less than twelve or fifteen days and that by the time of its arrival you will be fully prepared to march.

You will therefore on receiving this packet come forward with the field force under your command by such a line as shall appear best calculated to take Meer Khan's force in rear whilst he fronts Nagpur, or to intercept his retreat, should the present movements induce him to retire to the westward. As Meer Khan is intimately connected with Wazeer Mohammed Khan of Bhopal who serves him personally in the field it is probable that the eventual retreat of the former would on the movement of your force lie by Bhopal which on this account might be considered a favourable point for you to march on. It is calculated that you will commence your march by the 7th proximo, before which date my preparations for movement will have been complete and I shall accordingly march on to Hoshangabad, where I shall probably arrive at the time when you will have approached to the vicinity of Bhopal. Although present appearances would not indicate a necessity for the services of the battering train collected at Kalpee, yet in order to meet possible contingencies, I consider that it would be advisable to bring it to the most advanced position in Bundelkhand, where it can be stationed with security

On receiving from you the letter which I am led shortly to expect by a perusal of yours to Mr Jenkins of the 6th instant, I shall use the opportunity of the return of the cossids to write to you further on the subject of the service

The force to march with me from hence consists of a Squadron of Horse artillery, with ten guns and twelve Galloper Guns arranged to act by Brigades or in Squadron, one regiment of Dragoons and five regiments of native cavalry, one regiment of European infantry and seven battalions of Natives, a small part and a Brigade of six-Pounders to each corps of Infantry

I shall endeavour to keep you regularly informed of any movements, and shall hope to receive frequent accounts from you, as the cossids who will bear your letters will constitute the most certain conveyance of our correspondence.

Letter No 21.—Col. Close intimates his determination to march up to the Nerbudda.

From COLONEL B CLOSE.

To—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Pandhurna the 23rd December 1809

I am this moment favoured with your private letter of the 22nd, which in respect to present views is quite satisfactory

You will perceive from the accompanying packet to your address that I have determined to proceed to the Nerbudda on the plan originally suggested by His Highness the Rajah and have written to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell accordingly

Letter No 22.—In this letter Colonel Close points out that the Governor-General's decision to limit the objective of the military operations to force Meer Khan to retreat beyond the Nerbudda and not capture Sironj will not serve any useful purpose. He gives reasons for this view

From—COLONEL B CLOSE.

To—N B EDMONSTONE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Nimpani the 12th January 1810.

Akhbars which I yesterday received from the Nerbudda informed me that Meer Khan has given permission to some of his Pindaries to return to Raiscen while he dispatched others in great number to the Southward in order to plunder in Berar and that it was reported to be his intention to draw off to the Northern bank of the Nerbudda and pursue the route of Champore Barree, which had been lately taken by Vazeer Mohammed Khan from his Highness the Rajah of Nagpur together with Choukagarh a post, northerly of it in the direction of Bhopal.

This morning I received an Akhbar from my newswriter at Hoshangabad, dated 10th instant which confirms the above intelligence and further intimates that Meer Khan had moved on the 7th instant for the village of Suttarahgaon and was on his march to Champore Barree and that Sadik Ali had marched to Scinker

It appears that Meer Khan had prepared a large body of Pindaries at an advanced point on this route, with the view that they might penetrate into Berar the moment they should hear of the march of this force from Pandhurna. On the 5th instant, these forces when I ascended the Bezoli Ghat they passed Betul and marching for Ellichpore made their appearance near that place on the 7th instant, and after plundering some villages moved in a southerly direction as if they intended to ascend the Adjuttee Ghat. Of their further proceedings I have not yet received any material information.

Captain Jones had recently arrived at Amraoti and having heard of their appearance at Ellichpore, took measures for the protection of his convoy, but soon ascertained that they had pursued a westerly route, he was afterwards joined by Major Travers, and by a letter of the 9th instant from that officer, he was to leave Amraoti accompanied by Captain Jones' Convoy on the 11th instant. The last convoy from Hyderabad under Captain Bawdler may by this time have arrived within a few miles of Basim. The Officer Commanding the Native Battalion which I ordered from Pandhurna to Amraoti, is instructed to watch the progress of Captain Bawdler and march on to his support should appearances make such a movement necessary.

On the 10th instant I encamped at Betul and yesterday arrived at this ground after a march of some difficulty, owing to the roughness of the country which is generally covered by a thick jungle. The Shawpore Ghat being three coss in my front and difficult of passage for an army, I judge it expedient to order the cavalry, and one Brigade of native infantry with their guns to march this morning and encamp near the village of Shahpore six coss distant from hence, and tomorrow I propose to join them with the remainder of the troops and departments. Shahpore is reckoned to be about 47 miles from Hoshangabad.

Whilst writing I am honoured with your dispatch of the 30th December 1809, intimating the wish of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, to abandon the comprehensive system of policy to which His Lordship alluded in his minute of the 12th December, and to limit the views of Government to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontier of the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions, and of forming such a disposition of troops as would deter him from resuming his project of invasion.

Copies of the several dispatches which I addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, subsequent to the receipt of your dispatch, dated 7th December, have been regularly transmitted for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General. My first letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, dated 23rd December, informed him that I should march for Hoshangabad on or about the 3rd of this month, and I accordingly moved on the date as reported in my letter to your address of the 7th instant. I have not yet received any communication from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell but an Akhbar of the 4th instant from Pandurang, Mr Jenkin's News-writer in Sadik Ali Khan's camp, states directly that Hircarrahs had arrived there with a letter to my address from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell and had accordingly pursued their route to Pandhurna. These Hircarrahs will probably join me in a few days, and it may be expected I think that the letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell, is to inform me of his having marched for the support of Sadik Ali Khan on the Nerbudda. At this advanced stage of affairs then to limit the views of Government to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontiers of the Rajah

of Nagpur's dominions without an attack upon Seronge or Raiscen or other places which he may occupy belonging to Vazeer Mohammed Khan cannot but be attended with difficulty. That Vazeer Mahommed Khan perseveres in hostilities against the Rajah of Nagpur is evident from his having lately seized on Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh and as Meer Khan has begun to employ his pindaries in plundering Berar he probably conceives himself to be actually at war with the British Government. From what has passed there can be little reason to hope that Meer Khan and Vazeer Mohammed will abandon their designs against the Government of Nagpur so long as they retain their present possessions and to compel Meer Khan to retreat to any distance that may be inconvenient to him or tend to the safety of the Nagpur Government while he occupies Seronge and places belonging to Vazeer Mohammed Khan can hardly be effected by any definite pursuit (and if) permitted to hold such places the Rajah's territories north of the river must be always at his command.

To order forward the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell without using it for the purpose of seizing Seronge, and thus dislodging Meer Khan from the eastern side of Malwa would be to bring it to a considerable distance without an adequate object on which to employ it, and should this force cross the Nerbudda with no other view but that of endeavouring to bring Meer Khan to action it might be obliged to recross the Nerbudda in a manner highly prejudicial to its credit and should it fall back from its present station to Berar its retreat would naturally be followed by consequences too melancholy to describe. Sadik Ali by the departure of Meer Khan is enabled to move, and Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell is probably now advanced towards Saugor.

I shall therefore pursue my march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from the Rajah's frontier districts of Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh.

Letter No 23.—Jenkins writes about the sudden arrival of Sadik Ali Khan at Rajah's Camp in Nagpur from his military camp at Gadarwara. The motives of this action and the consequences are indicated.

FROM—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.
To—COLONEL B CLOSE

Nagpur the 17th January 1810.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 13th and 14th instant.

The intention attributed to Sadik Ali of repairing to the presence, took my attention from the first and I forwarded the Akhbars to the Ministers who assured me that Sadik Ali had only

lately written his being prepared immediately to cross the Nerbudda in pursuit of Meer Khan, and I also received intelligence as I have had the pleasure of stating to you, that the plan had met with the Rajah's complete disapprobation, and that orders had been sent in positive terms to Sadik Ali, by no means to leave his camp

I had only just received your letter of the 14th which reached me very early on the morning of yesterday, when I learnt that Sadik Ali and Ghulam Haider Bukshee had actually arrived on the preceding night I understood at the same time that his arrival was quite unexpected by the Rajah, and that His Highness had been roused from his bed to receive him

I wrote immediately to Jeswant Rao, requesting him to visit me, and I stated to him the contents of your letter and the surprise I felt on learning Sadik Ali's arrival after the communications I had received from the Durbar on the subject Jeswant Rao assured me that His Highness was much annoyed at the circumstances and quite surprised by Sadik Ali's appearance in disobedience of orders and contrary to the term of his latest communications Although he said, the Rajah had been awakened on that commander's arrival at his tents, he had declined seeing him at night and early in the morning had sent Narda Chitnavis to his house to learn the occasion of an unwelcome proceeding

Sadik Ali had represented as his motives, 1st a desire to see the Rajah, 2nd to offer his condolences on the Bacc's death, 3rd to get some money of which the army was much in want, 4th to receive orders from the Rajah personally on the subject of the service on which he was engaged, 5th to obtain His Highness's sanction to his having an interview with you for the purpose of ascertaining fully your wishes to which he was directed implicitly to conform, and which he might accomplish by taking your camp in the way to his own The latter object Jeswant Rao said he was not instructed to mention to me He hinted that it was connected with the desire of Sadik Ali to take the lead in all affairs, and to ingratiate himself with the Rajah by showing his political address in sounding your views and intentions

Sadik Ali had further, Jeswant Rao said, assured the Rajah that Jeswant Rao, Duttajee, and the other Chiefs would carry the army forward and that no inconvenience would arise from his absence, but the Rajah was very apprehensive of the bad appearance which Sadik Ali's proceeding would have in your eyes, and did not think that any of the objects alleged, were of sufficient importance to authorize it at such a moment, which was done however, could not be recalled and the only remedy was to hasten his return with all possible expedition

The time I said, was lost, and the consequences of the proceeding probably irreparable Sadik Ali's immediate return was indispensable, considering that all measures of co-operation depended on him I saw no object to be gained by his proposed visit to your camp He was in possession of every communication from

you which he could expect to receive as to your views which as far as they related to political matters would only be made known in any case through the usual channel and if Sadik Ali was to return to his camp the sooner the better

As you had considered it absolutely necessary that Sadik Ali should not quit his camp your disappointment would be proportionate to the impropriety which you perceived in the measure. Meer Khan's escape if he did entirely escape, might be in a great degree attributable to it at least if Sadik Ali had complied with your wishes of hanging on his rear the enemy must have been somewhat impeded in his retreat and might possibly have been brought to action

Jeswant Rao said that the Rajah was aware of the imprudence of the measure and would not detain Sadik Ali but would supply everything he wanted in order to hasten his return and make his force efficient. I asked when he would set out Jeswant Rao said he would let me know It would certainly be an early day but the army would march without him. I have the pleasure to forward copies of my last Akhbars from the Camp Nearly two or three thousand Horse are said to be coming in for want of pay and in consequence of Sadik Ali's proceeding This was also mentioned by Jeswant Rao If Sadik Ali's return depends upon the pecuniary affairs I do not augur well of its being speedy But I shall continue to press the subject.

Jeswant Rao gave some hints 36, 11 90 50 5 18 present 30 75 21 29166, 82, 90 (figures) in the (Figures) which indicate a possibility of some reference to us being in contemplation. I am sorry to observe the Governor-General's disposition to limit his views, but I think it will be hardly possible and the opportunity may not again occur so fairly

The Rajah seems to persevere in not entering the city and is going to take up his position for his camp beyond Tellin Khere.

Letter No 24.—The letter says that Meer Khan had retreated from Gadarwara on the approach of British troops. Close refers to the change in the decision of Governor-General regarding operations against Meer Khan.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—LIEUT-COLONEL MARTINDELL.

Hoshangabad the 19th January 1810.

I have had the pleasure to receive your dispatch of the 3rd instant in triplicate.

Meer Khan on being informed that the British troops were approaching towards this place, retired hastily from the position he held near the Nagpur Army at Gadarwara, and taking the

route of Chainpore Baree, and Raisseen, pursued his march towards Bhelsa, but whether he is destined for Seronge or Holkar's Camp has not been ascertained. Such further accounts as I may receive of his movements or intentions, shall be communicated to you

I arrived here this day with a division of the troops, the remainder will join tomorrow

It is proper I should acquaint you, that by an official dispatch from Mr Chief Secretary Edmonstone I am informed, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General wishes me to consider his Lordship's views as limited to the object of compelling Meer Khan's retreat from the frontier of the Rajah of Nagpur's dominions and of forming such a disposition of troops, as would deter him from resuming his project of invasion and that if on this place the employment of the force assembled in Bundelkhand should be necessary to compel Meer Khan's retreat from the Rajah's frontier it will be expedient that it may move directly upon the position of Meer Khan, and not upon Seronge, which from various considerations His Lordship is desirous should not be attacked

From these instructions you will perceive that my proceedings must be regulated by the destination and future intentions of Meer Khan as he has assuredly retired past Raisseen I conclude that when you approach from Chatterpore you will come by the Ghat of Mattoon

Letter No 25—Colonel Close reports the movements of Meer Khan and the departure of Sadik Ali from Gadarwara for Nagpur leaving his Army in charge of his subordinate officers.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Hoshangabad, the 19th January 1810

I arrived here this morning with a division of the troops The remainder will join tomorrow forenoon

The troops are healthy, and the Horses in good condition, but the diaft cattle have suffered a little from the labour they were put to, in passing through a very difficult country from Betul

Meer Khan's retreat by the way of Belsah, is confirmed through a variety of channels, but to what part he is destined, whether to Seronge or to the westward, has not been ascertained Vazeer Mohammed by the latest intelligence is at Rassem and his brother Mohammed Karim at Chainpore Barree with a body of Cavalry and a Durra of Pindaries Three Durras of Pindaries, viz, Seetoo's, Karim Khan's and Dost Mohammed's are said to have accompanied Meer Khan.

Sadik Ali has proceeded to Nagpur without having given me any notice of his intention to separate from the troops. The first information of his departure I learned from Mr Jenkins. I hear that he has deputed a relation of his called Raza Sahib to wait on me, and that he is on the road from Sohagpur. Bukshi Govind Rao is said to have marched towards Jubbulpore, and an officer named Jeswant Rao Duttajee is reported to be now in charge of the Nagpur Army at Gadarwara.

Jaikishan Pant who resides in camp on the part of the Rajah tells me that he is uninformed as to the motive which induced Sadik Ali to separate from the troops but conjectures that his object is to prevail on the Rajah to pay off a part of the arrears due to the troops at Gadarwara.

I have the honour to enclose for the notice of His Lordship a copy of a dispatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Martindell dated Chatterpur the 3rd instant and also a copy of my reply. My future proceedings will be regulated by the information I may receive of Meer Khan's destination or plans of action.

Letter No 26—The letter explains the reasons that led the Governor-General to stop further military operations resulting in the conquest of Sironj

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM.

TO—COLONEL CLOSE.

Fort William the 25th January 1810.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 12th instant in reply to the communications contained in my letter of the 30th ultimo and to signify to you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entirely approves your intentions of pursuing your march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla's frontier districts of Chaupore Baree and Choukigarh. To dispossess the enemy of the places which he may have wrested from the dominion of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla necessarily forms a part of the original object of assembling our forces. I am further directed to convey to you the following observations having reference to those contained in your dispatch.

2 The consideration which principally induced the Governor-General to discourage the extension of our military operations as far as Seronge was as stated in my letter of the 30th ultimo the apprehension of its involving us too deeply in the affairs of the interior of Hindustan. His Lordship would have been happy if you had considered the arguments in support of the justice of that apprehension to have been stated with a view to obtain the benefit

of your opinion regarding the assumed fact, that such an extension of the military operations would probably produce the consequences which it was so much the desire of the Governor-General to avoid

3 The communications which I have had the honour to convey to you under the authority of the Governor-General had uniformly recommended the prosecution of active measures for the purpose of dislodging the force of Amir Khan from its menacing position on the frontier of the Rajah's possessions, and if possible of attacking and dispersing it and His Lordship by his instructions of the 30th ultimo intended that no other limitation should be imposed on those measures, than such as was necessary to avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of being involved in the interest and concerns of the states and Chiefs of Malwa of extending objects of the actual warfare, of entering in short upon a system of proceedings, which by their effect upon the views and apprehensions of others might lead to consequences far beyond the scope of His Lordship's views as described in those instructions

4 As far as the credit of the British Government is concerned, it did not appear to His Lordship to be in any degree endangered by this proposed limitation, on the contrary His Lordship was disposed to think that having originally declared the sole object of the assembling of our forces to be to defeat the designs of Amir Khan against the dominions of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, when that object should have been attained by the advance of our troops compelling Amir Khan's retreat, and arrangements calculated to prevent the return of the danger which our exertions had averted should have been subsequently formed, our credit would have been maintained as it respected the reputation of our arms, and augmented as connected with the justice and moderation of our views and with the sincerity of our declarations

5 Another consideration which discouraged the conquest of Seronge with its neighbouring territories was the difficulty of disposing of them His Lordship foresaw great inconvenience and probable future evil from their being disposed of in any manner under the security of our guarantee and without that guarantee to transfer them to the Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla in other respects the most desirable mode of disposing of them would be nugatory Upon this

His Lordship would be happy to receive the communication of your opinion with reference to the event of Seronge or its adjacent territories coming into our possession

6 The Governor-General fully appreciates the advantage of depriving Amir Khan of the Depot and point of support which Seronge affords him and of the arms, ordnance and stores which it is supposed to contain and would entirely approve the pursuit of his force to that place or into the territory of Bhopal with the expectation of overtaking and dispersing it But if the prosecution

of the siege of Seronge and the occupation of the adjacent country and the dispossession of the Nabob of Bhopal should lead us into that extended range of protracted military operations of political controversies and of commixture in the complicated and conflicting interests and concerns of that distracted region His Lordship would desire if possible to abstain from engaging in such an enterprize. If there is no hazard of these consequences His Lordship would consider as highly politic and advisable the employment of every exertion for the disgrace defeat and destruction of the forces of Amir Khan by pursuing him to those places of refuge where by an accession of resources he might be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity of resuming the prosecution of his ambitious designs.

7 In directing the communication of these observations it is the object of the Governor-General distinctly to explain to you what he is anxious both to avoid and to attain leaving the rest to your distinguished ability and judgment on which His Lordship reposes the most implicit confidence and desiring not so much to restrain as to afford a latitude to the exercise of your discretion with relation to the points which form the subject of this dispatch.

5 I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your further dispatches of the dates noted in the margin

Letter No 27—The letter reports the movements of Close towards Bhopal

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE.

TO—N B EDMONSTONE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Umaria the 31st January 1810

I have the honour to report for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General that the rear division of the troops cleared the Kairband Ghat yesterday and joined the advanced division here this forenoon

At Hoshangabad I have left the 1st Battalion 26th Regiment under Major Bruce, and the greater part of His Highness the Nizam's Infantry and Cavalry. Under this arrangement Hoshangabad will serve as a Grain Depot and a point of support to the troops in advance. The convoy of treasure under Captain Bowdler arrived at Amraoti on the 28th instant. The treasure will now come forward to Hoshangabad escorted by the 1st Battalion 10th Regiment, commanded by Captain Howell

This morning I received duplicate and triplicate of Lieutenant Colonel Martindell's letter of the 11th instant the former dated the 12th from Choukigarh and the latter the 13th from Goolgung from which it appears that he marched agreeable to his former intimation

Accounts from the northward, now mention that Meer Khan after having halted at Seronge pursued his march to the westward

Tomorrow I propose to make a forced march with the cavalry and a Brigade of Infantry in the direction of Raisseen

Letter No. 28—The letter reports about an interview between Colonel Close and the Wakil of Vazeer Mohammed Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal. Close had asked the Vakeel to communicate to his master that he should give up Choukigarh and Champore Baree to the Bhonsla to which he agreed

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Umania, the 31st January 1810.

The Vakeel alluded to by Vazeer Mohammed Khan in his letter to my address, of which I have had the honour to transmit a copy, arrived in camp on the evening of the 28th instant, and two private elephants which from the misconduct of their keepers, had been taken to a considerable distance from Camp, and carried off by some Pindaries during the halt at Hoshangabad, were sent back by Vazeer Mohammed Khan, and arrived in Camp at nearly the same time with the Vakeel. I judged it expedient to defer admitting the Vakeel to an interview, but desired my Munshi to hear, and report to me what he had to communicate. By this step I learnt that he had brought another letter to my address from his master who had further charged him with a mission expressive of his attachment and submission to the British Government.

This morning I admitted the Vakeel to an interview. He presented me with the letter before noticed, of which a copy is enclosed. After it had been read he made a studied speech, in which he detailed the calamities experienced by the Bhopal Government from the attacks of Sindhia and the Rajah of Nagpur, whose views went to the very subversion of the Government, and the seizure of Vazeer Mohammed's person, in order to place him in confinement. That overmatched by these Chieftains he had been driven to shifts, which otherwise would have never entered his mind, but that still his posts had been taken and his territory laid waste, so that around him there was nothing but desolation. I observed that it did not surprise me to hear that Vazeer Mohammed's administration was subject to difficulties. That of late years he had collected the Pindaries of Malwa and given them a residence within his territories, and that as he could not subsist them,

he allowed them to ravage the districts of his neighbours. That not content with a system of proceeding so blameable he had called in Meer Khan and united with him in an attack upon the Government of Raghojee Bhonsla who was known to be on a footing of intimate friendship with the Hon'ble Company. That as Meer Khan's demands upon Raghojee Bhonsla were groundless and oppressive the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General had required him to desist and retire but that he still persevered in crossing the Nerbudda and attacking the Bhonsla's Army and that on this line of conduct Vazeer Mohammed continued to act in concert with him assisting him with the whole of his resource and that during these operations the Pindaries of the two colleagues entered Berar and plundered its inhabitants. That Vazeer Mohammed must have received communication of the letters written by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to Meer Khan that with such information he still adhered to that chief and until the present time had never addressed a line to the British Government to apologize for his conduct or lessen its resentment. The Vakeel in answer made the most solemn asseverations that his master had taken no part to call in Meer Khan that on the contrary Meer Khan had threatened to deprive him of the administration and assume it himself if he Vazeer Mohammed did not join with him in his design of attacking the Bhonsla. That in regard to the Pindaries it had long been usual with the Chiefs of Malwa to employ them. That any connection or intercourse with them was obviously blameable and that on this point his master could only plead necessity. That Vazeer Mohammed did learn the contents of the letters written by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to Meer Khan with whom he continued to act merely from compulsion but that he was certainly wrong in not addressing a letter to the Governor-General explaining the pressure he sustained and apologizing for the part he acted which though unavoidable, might to some appear to be from choice but that having lost the goodwill of the Governor-General he was desirous to show his submission by complying with any requisitions I might be induced to make. In reply I said that the former letters from Vazeer Mohammed I had forwarded for the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General. That I should likewise transmit his present dispatch to be submitted to His Lordship. That there was one point which I thought Vazeer Mohammed should attend to. That while he co-operated with Meer Khan he had made himself master of Choukigarth and Champore Bari and that it was my opinion that he ought to restore these places immediately to the Nagpur Government. The Vakeel replied that his master would assuredly comply with any recommendation from me. I then told him that I should give him a letter in reply to his master which he would convey to him without delay. The Vakeel assented, and after receiving the letter returned to Bhopal. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

Letter No 29—Colonel Close writes that the Wakil of Vazir Mohammed Khan had handed over to him an order from Vazir Mohammed to his officers at Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh to give up these two places to the Bhonsla's officers

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Camp, Right bank of Betwa, the 6th February 1810

I have the honour to acknowledge your dispatches of the 30th and 31st ultimo

From my late correspondence you would learn, that a Vakeel had come in from Vazeer Mohammed Khan, and that at my desire he had returned to his master charged with a message from me stating, that as Vazeer Mohammed Khan had made himself master of Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh during the late occasion, when Meer Khan was invading the Bhonsla's territories, it was proposed that these places should be restored to the Bhonsla accordingly. The Vakeel returned to Camp on the 4th instant and yesterday presented me with two papers of orders from Vazeer Mohd Khan addressed to his principal officers at Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh, directing them to restore both agreeably to my desire. I immediately delivered them to Jaikishan Pant, in order that he might transmit them to Jeswant Rao Duttajee who commands the Rajah's force within a few coss of Barree. A report prevailed some time ago that this officer had possessed himself of Baree which now proves to have been unfounded. It may be concluded I think that when he presents the above orders to Vazeer Mohammed's officers, no hesitation will be made in restoring both Chainpore Baree and Choukigarh to the Rajah's Government.

The disposition which the Rajah has adopted for his troops in advance, is not likely to succeed, I think, to the extent which he expects. Jeswant Rao Duttajee will scarcely be able to do more than keep possession of Chainpore and Choukigarh.

I shall be happy if Sadik Ali Khan joins me with a corps of His Highness's troops.

Letter No 30—Close reports that he had nominated an Aumildar of Sironj on behalf of Holkar's Government and complains that Bhonsla's army had not come to his aid and had been starving at Baree owing to want of money.

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE

TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Sironj, the 12th February 1810

Yesterday I received an express from Mr Edmonstone via Nagpur dated the 25th ultimo. It gives me a greater latitude than

I possessed before With the view to add to the distresses of Meer Khan I have nominated an Amildar of Seronge on behalf of Holkar's Government whether the plan will ultimately succeed I cannot yet determine however it promises fairly It ought surely to remove all doubt from the Rajah's mind relative to the purity and disinterestedness of our intentions in supporting his cause. I am grieved to say that notwithstanding His Highness's promises that his Army should co-operate with me I have not heard a word of Sadik Ali's progress and what is worse or at least bad is that Jeswant Rao Duttajee's Army at Barree is absolutely starving This Army assisted with some pay should now be at Bassoda or on the line between that place and Chaintpore Barree In not paying and sending forward his troops His Highness is shamefully inattentive to his interests

Letter No 31.—In this letter Close gives a brief history of Sironj as to whom it had belonged in the past. How Meer Khan has been behaving and Vazir Mohammed withholding the transfer of Choukigarh are alluded to

FROM—COLONEL CLOSE.

TO—N B EDMONSTONE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Sirwah the 27th February 1810.

A statement of Meer Khan's troops forms an enclosure.

I have the honour to enclose an Akhbar lately received from Meer Khan's Camp The quarrel between the Pindary chiefs may be attributed to their necessities Meer Khan cannot remain long in one place from want of subsistence and he seems to have passed Ujjain taking the direction of Mahipalpoore

A short time since it appeared doubtful whether Seronge should be considered to belong to Holkar or Sindhia. On my arrival at Seronge therefore I caused particular enquiry to be made on the point, of the principal of the province and after some delay obtained a statement taken from his records a copy of which with a translation I have the honour to enclose for the notice of the Right Honourable the Governor-General a detailed account of Sher Khan's expedition to the eastern side of Malwa as given in most of the Persian Histories of that period His siege of Raisen which ended in its reduction is particularly described and on the fall of this place, Seronge must have been subjected to his authority and have afterwards continued as an imperial tenure. Although Seronge has often changed masters it appears to have come regularly under the authority of the Peshwa Bajirao and to have been subsequently granted by the Poona Government to Tukoji Holkar Jeswant Rao Holkar's ancestor When Luckwa Dada seized on Seronge he acted for himself having previously separated from Sindhia's Government and although Serjee Rao Ghatgay afterwards

laid hold of the province he does not seem to have taken the step on any ground of right. Holkar however soon received possession of the province, conferring it on Meer Khan. Holkar's claims to the province therefore appear unquestionably to be best founded. I have already had occasion to observe that Seronge is an open town. In the centre of it is a square enclosure in which the Amildar has usually resided.

Its may contain about 2,000 square yards. The wall is low and decayed that it might be forced by a 3 pr. It might be strengthened so as to make it capable of some resistance, were it not that it is commanded by an eminence which hangs over the town.

From this description His Lordship will perceive that Seronge is not only unfortified, but is incapable of being made a secure or convenient post.

The annual revenue of Seronge is as formerly estimated at nearly 3 lacks of rupees. For many years it has not yielded more than a lac and a half.

The force which accompanied Meer Khan to Seronge on his retreat from the Nerbudda is detailed in a paper conveyed herein. A body of horse consisting of some thousands is said to serve as an escort to his baggage, but they are probably so ill-mounted as to be useless in the field. Of the 12 guns it would appear that four or five were taken by him at Jabalpur, since Mohammed Shah Khan left Seronge no large proportion of ordnance or stores has been collected there.

The general idea at Seronge is that the Pindaries who frequent the Nerbudda are very numerous. Enclosed is an account of the numbers under the principal Jamindary taken down from a Pindary belonging to Dost Mohammed, who was taken prisoner by the Mysore horse, considered as pretty correct. Whatever the real number of these Pindaries may be they have shown themselves particularly shy of this force. Not more than 10 or 12 have been seen at a time, and since two or three of them have been taken prisoners not one has been heard of. No body of them has been known to rendezvous at any spot less distant from us than three or four marches.

The country immediately to the eastward and southward of Seronge is subject to various authorities being held principally by the Saugor Chief, the Zamindar of Mullargarh, the Nabob of Koorwye, Raghojee Bhonsla, Sindhia, and Vazeer Mohammed of Bhopal. The whole of these districts are open to the ravages of any invader, and when not disturbed from abroad the different local authorities frequently enterprize on each other. The Pindaries subsist themselves in a great degree in these districts, and contributions have been levied on these by Meer Khan who in some instances laid waste whole Talook.

When I crossed the Nerbudda I thought that the Rajah of Nagpur might be induced to accept his Lordship's very liberal overtures but as he has decidedly rejected them no means seem to be left to the British Government by which to strengthen His Highness's frontier

A British force established at Jabalpur would be sufficient for the end proposed and had circumstances been such under an alliance with the Rajah as to have led to the capture of Bhopal the establishment of a British force at that place instead of Jabalpur would have soon compelled the Pindaries to abandon their haunts on the Nerbudda and made Seronge of little avail to Meer Khan and besides placed the districts before enumerated on a state of security

I shall defer offering an opinion on the expediency or in expediency of assisting Sadik Ali Khan in any views he may entertain against Bhopal until I have an interview with him. The orders for the restitution of Chowkigirh which I obtained from Vazeer Mohammed have not taken effect having been rejected by the Killedar on some pretext which I have not yet ascertained but I apprehend that Vazeer Mohammed is secretly resolved not to restore the place unless some arrangement suitable to his interests shall be previously adjusted between him and the Rajah of Nagpur Sadik Ali Khan left Hoshangabad some days since on his way to this Camp and will arrive in the course of this day

Statement of Meer Khan's troops on his arrival at Seronge

	Infantry	Guns
Two Battalions joint strength	500	12
	Cavalry	
Amir Khan from Khal Rampoorah	200	
The son of Akber Khan	100	
Tooree Baz Khan	150	
Mohammed Syed Khan Rampoorah and Saiwar Khan	200	
Mohammed Syed Khan—Afzal Ghuria	200	
Bukshi Gowardhan Lal	150	
Wahid Khan	150	
Khuda Buksh Khan and Meer Khan	1200	
Sunned Khan	100	
Sherandaz Khan Afridee	50	
Khair Mohammed Khan and Huyar Mohammed Khan	500	
Sheerah Pir Buksh	200	
Himmat Khan's Pagah	100	
Abdulla Khan	150	
Under several petty leaders	50	
Total	4000	

A true translation

B CLOSE, COLONEL

Letter No 32 —This is an important letter in which the causes of stopping further military operations in Malwa are clearly explained. It throws light on the attitude and intention of British Government in respect of Malwa and the Chiefs in that part of the country.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, FORT ST GEORGE

TO—COLONEL B CLOSE

Fort St George, the 25th February 1810

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch under date the 12th instant in reply to the communications contained in my letter of the 30th ultimo and to signify to you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General entirely approves your intention of pursuing your march to Hoshangabad in order to drive the enemy from Raja Raghojee Bhonsla's frontier districts of Champore Bai and Chowkigarh To dispossess the enemy of the places which he may have wrested from the dominions of Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla, necessarily forms a part of the original object of assembling our forces I am further directed to convey to you the following observations having reference to those contained in your dispatch

2 The consideration which principally induced the Governor-General to discourage the extension of our Military operations as far as Seronge, was (as stated in my letter of the 30th ultimo) the apprehension of its involving us too deeply in the affairs of the interior of Hindustan His Lordship would have been happy if you had considered the arguments in support of the justice of that apprehension, to have been stated with a view to obtain the benefit of your opinion, regarding the assumed fact that, such an extension of the military operations would probably produce the consequences which it was so much the desire of the Governor-General to avoid

3 The communication which I have had the honour to convey to you under authority of the Governor-General has uniformly recommended the prosecution of active measures for the purpose of dislodging the force of Amir Khan from its menacing position on the frontier of the Rajah's possession, and if possible of attacking and dispersing it, and His Lordship by his instructions of the 30th ultimo intended that no other limitation should be imposed on those measures, than such as was necessary to avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of being involved in the interests and concerns of the states and chiefs of Malwa, of extending the objects of the actual warfare, of entering in short upon a system of proceedings, which by their effect upon the views or apprehensions of others, might lead to consequences far beyond the scope of His Lordship's views as described in those instructions

4. As far as the credit of the British Government is concerned it did not appear to His Lordship to be in any degree endangered by this proposed limitation on the contrary His Lordship was disposed to think that having originally declared the sole object of the assembling of our forces to be to defeat the designs of Amir Khan against the dominions of the Raghojee Bhonsla when that object should have been attained by the advance of our troops compelling Ameer Khan's retreat and arrangements calculated to prevent the return of the danger which our exertions had averted should have been subsequently formed our credit would have been maintained as it respected the reputation of our arms and augmented as connected with the justice and moderation of our views and with the sincerity of our declarations

5. Another consideration which discouraged the conquest of Seronge or the neighbouring territories was the difficulty of disposing of them. His Lordship foresaw great inconvenience and probable future evil from their being disposed of in any manner under the security of our guarantee and without that guarantee, to transfer them to Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla in other respects the most desirable mode of disposing of them would be nugatory. Upon this question His Lordship would be happy to receive the communication of your opinion with reference to the event of Seronge or its adjacent territories coming into our possession

6. The Governor-General fully appreciates the advantage of depriving Amir Khan of the depot and point of support which Seronge affords him and of the arms ordnance and stores which it is supposed to contain and would entirely approve the pursuit of his force to that place or into the territory of Bhopal with the expectation of overtaking and dispersing it. But if the prosecution of the siege of Seronge and the occupation of the adjacent country and the dispossession of the Nabob of Bhopal should lead us into that extended range of protracted military operations of political controversies and of commixture in the complicated and conflicting interests and concerns of that distracted region His Lordship would desire if possible to abstain from engaging in such an enterprize. If there is no hazard of these consequences His Lordship would consider as highly politic and advisable the employment of every exertion for the disgrace, defeat and destruction of the forces of Ameer Khan by pursuing him to those places of refuge where by an accession of resources he might be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity of resuming the prosecution of his ambitious designs.

7. In directing the communication of these observations it is the object of the Governor-General distinctly to explain to you what he is anxious both to avoid and to attain, leaving the rest to your distinguished ability and judgment on which His Lordship reposes most implicit confidence and desiring not so much to restrain to afford a latitude to the exercise of your discretion, with reference to the points which form the subject of this despatch.

8 I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your further dispatches of the dates noted in the margin

Letter No 33 —In this letter Close narrates his discussions with Sadik Ali Khan, who visited him in his Camp Close points out that since Vazeer Mohammed had refused to part with Choukigarh he was marching to recover it for the Bhonsla. He further suggests that Bhopal might be conquered and handed over to the Bhonsla

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Soomari, the 1st March 1810

After addressing you on the 27th February I had the honour to receive your dispatch dated the 12th of that month Sadik Ali Khan has arrived in the vicinity of this Camp and he accordingly visited me in the course of the evening As it was an interview of compliment, nothing passed on business It was urged however that he should come to my tent slightly attended on the ensuing day Jaikishan Pant informed of Sadik Ali Khan's approach had gone out to meet him and I now learnt indirectly from Jaikishan Pant that Sadik Ali had no proposition to offer relative to public affairs, but was instructed by the Rajah to pay me great attentions When he came to my tent on his second visit I found this information to be apparently correct In conversing with him I adverted to the dangers from which the Rajah's Government had recently escaped, pointed out that for a series of years past His Highness had been constantly at war with the Nabob of Bhopal That His Highness's endeavours to make a conquest of the Bhopal territory had failed and as neither side had shown a desire to come to a settlement, the consequence was that His Highness's territories were constantly harassed by incursions of the Pindaries, which ended in the late serious invasion by Meer Khan That in this chiefly the Rajah had not only to sustain the menacing enmity of an ally of Vazeer Mohammed, but the keen resentment of a personal adversary violently bent on revenge That as Meer Khan had only retired and might return whenever opportunity served, affairs in regard to the Rajah's Government were on the same posture as before the invasion commenced, with this difference only that from

the frustration of his designs Meer Khan might in any future attempt be actuated by augmented passion and aggravated feelings of revenge. That Vazeer Mohammed continued in actual hostilities with the Rajah's Government while Meer Khan only awaited another opportunity to come to his aid that the danger thus hanging over the Rajah's Government was not limited merely to the Rajah's interests but extended so as to be the cause of inconvenience to the frontier of the Honourable Company's allies the Nizam and the Peshwa. That from this circumstance the British Government had a right to bear an interest in the conduct of the Rajah's Government respecting its enemies just alluded to and accordingly did hope that His Highness would now adopt a course of measures calculated to prevent a recurrence of those dangers from which his interests had been so happily saved. Sadik Ali affected to speak lightly of Meer Khan and then observed that as the Rajah his master had a sincere and firm friend in the British Government, he had nothing to apprehend from any of his enemy. I replied that the British Government had manifested the extreme of friendship towards the Rajah of Nagpur. That it had supported him however at a great sacrifice at an enormous expense and that as the insecurity of His Highness's territories exposed the Honourable Company's allies to the inconvenience beforementioned it could not be unreasonable in the British Government to expect that His Highness would not continue to be so far inattentive to his interests as still to leave his territories exposed to future attacks from his inveterate adversaries without suggesting an arrangement for protecting them. Sadik Ali again alluded to the Company's friendship on which I remarked that to be deserving of friendship we should be reluctant to form unreasonable expectations from it. That the Rajah had experienced the excess of friendship from the British Government in the steps which it had taken for His Highness's support and in return it only wished His Highness to arrange for the future security of his northern frontier. Sadik Ali said that the Rajah had no object in view which the Honourable Company could not accomplish for him that with regard to himself his orders were to wait on me, and act with me to the best of his power. That with respect to the topics of my discourse, he imagined that whatever might have been agitated there on at the Rajah's Durbar would have been communicated to me by Mr Jenkins. Here I observed that it was incumbent on every Government to attend to the welfare of its charge, that the British Government was always studious to protect its territories and guard
 as future evils, and that it would be scarcely allowable to

apprehend that His Highness the Rajah was not influenced by similar principles and inclinations. That the relation of friendship between states when firmly established, should not be permitted to decline, but should if possible be further connected. That for the accomplishment of an object which though of a common nature went immediately to secure the Rajah's interests, His Highness surely would not wish the British Government to act alone. In answer Sadik Ali said that in such a case, he thought there would be no indisposition towards our views. I now gave the discourse a turn and conversed with him about his former operations in the Bhopal territory, and after some time enquired if Vazeer Mohammed had when his fortunes were so low shown any disposition to come to a compromise with the Rajah. He said no, that Vazeer Mohammed though capable and active was only a Grazier, (imputing that he was mean and servile) and that it was impossible to come to an accommodation with him, as no pledge of his faith would influence his conduct. In consequence of further enquiries he told me, that Kinnou Garh on the western side of Bhopal was Vazeer Mohammed's principal place of retreat, that he had not been disposed of it at the period alluded to, that it was convenient for his purpose from being surrounded by a thick jungle, but that the fort might be battered from some adjacent heights. Shortly after the interview terminated.

Throughout the whole of the conversation which took place, I could not discover that Sadik Ali had it in view to prosecute any object at present, besides the recovery of Chokigarh, which Jeswant Rao Duttajee is besieging. From his manner and expressions however it appeared that he would willingly co-operate with this force, for the purpose of dispossessing Vazeer Mohammed and placing the Bhopal territory under the Government of Nagpur.

It will be obvious to His Lordship, that the result of my interview with Sadik Ali is not a direct confirmation of this disposition shown by the Rajah of Nagpur in rejection of His Lordship's overtures as described in Mr Jenkin's correspondence. It would appear that when Sadik Ali formerly took possession of the town of Bhopal an agreement had previously taken place between Sindhia and the Rajah of Nagpur, that the territory of Bhopal should be equally divided between them, and that its posts should be occupied by their troops jointly. At the town of Bhopal Sindhia's troops mutined, which ended in the evacuation of the town by Sadik Ali, when Vazeer Mohammed recovered all that he had lost except Chowkigarh and Chainpore Bari.

In regard to the points on which His Lordship has done me the honour to require my sentiments, my opinions relative to some of them will be found in my former correspondence. Lieutenant-Colonel Matrindell, in a reference to his instructions, conceived that he was not at liberty to approach to the Betwah. On the 21st ultimo he marched from Kimlassa on his return to Chatterpore.

My proceeding relative to Seronge are already before His Lordship. I do not think that the Rajah of Nagpur would venture to occupy it and am of opinion that it could not be taken possession of for the Honourable Company with advantage or convenience, unless with an arrangement by which a British force should be established on the northern bank of the Nerbudda or at some neighbouring position.

I cannot entertain much hope that the Rajah of Nagpur will be ever disposed to come to an accommodation with Vazeer Mohammed. Sadik Ali has already spoken plainly on the point and from what I have heard of Vazeer Mohammed's notions, he conceives that the Nagpur Government has unjustly possessed itself of districts belonging to the Bhopal territory which it ought to restore and as he is equally at war with Sindhia as with the Rajah of Nagpur a settlement with the latter only would afford him but little security. Although he gave me an order addressed to his Kildedar of Chikigarh directing him to restore place to the Nagpur Government it was not obeyed by the Kildedar when sent to him by the Nagpur commander. Supposing however that he might be prevailed on to make some sacrifice by way of retribution to the Nagpur Government His Highness Raghojee Bhonsla might spin out the negotiation to any length especially as I could only conduct it through Mr Jenkins. Sadik Ali having by his own account no authority to confer with me on any public subject connected with his master's Government. The question of attaching Bhopal with the view of making a conquest of the principality for the Honourable Company appears to be of great magnitude. Bhopal is separated from Berar by the Nagpur territory and Sindhia certainly considered it as tributary to him exclusively of the arrangement which he adjusted with the Rajah of Nagpur before alluded to. But supposing neither Sindhia nor Raghojee Bhonsla to have any claim to the possession of Bhopal or the tribute from it, the occupation of it by the Honourable Company could scarcely fail to excite uneasiness in the mind of Sindhia whose pretensions it would go to circumscribe. It seems not unlikely however that such effect might be obviated in great degree by transferring the Bhopal territory when obtained to the Rajah of Nagpur on condition of his accepting a British Subsidiary Force. That for Bhopal however His Highness would be induced to accept a Subsidiary Force, can scarcely be expected. Mr Jenkins correspondence seems to forbid such a hope. The question presents itself then what is to be done to prevent the return of Meer Khan to the Nerbudda, and the inconvenience that would immediately result to the British interests from his again placing the Nagpur Government in danger. The natural remedy of a subsidiary force with the Rajah of Nagpur is not practicable and it may be apprehended that to place a subsidiary force with the Chief of Saugor would be equally so. Neither Sindhia nor Holkar possess any fair claims upon him, but he enjoys independence, of which he may be ostentatious as the Rajah of Nagpur. One other case only seems to

remain for consideration. The Rajah of Nagpur is anxious to possess Bhopal, and it might be placed under his Government without much delay. The principality might be given to him unconditionally, and the British troops withdrawn when the acquisition should be completed. The co-operation on the service would last for some time and the disinterested nature of the act, added to the use which the Rajah's interests would derive from the presence of the British troops, might reconcile His Highness to the plan of retaining their services. As his interests would be directly benefited by the acquisition, he would probably find means to satisfy Sindhia's pretensions to a share of the concern, but should it be apprehended that the accomplishment of this scheme would end in Sindhia's obtaining possession of a part of Bhopal, the inconvenience would not be great, as the object of the British Government seems to be that Bhopal should not be held by any party in alliance with Meer Khan.

I am now on my way to Chainpore Bari, where I shall arrive in three or four days and shall not determine to recross the Nerbudda without giving a further consideration to the present state of affairs.

Letter No 34—Close writes that he intends withdrawing the British troops in two columns back to Amraoti.

FROM—COLONEL B CLOSE

TO—N. B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Camp Sunkair, the 10th March 1810

In my dispatch of the 7th instant I had the honour to intimate that the Bhopal Vakeel having returned to that place, had promised to bring me a reply from his master relative to the negotiation in the space of six days, and that I should not delay to recross the Nerbudda as I could conveniently have further meeting with the Vakeel at Hoshangabad. I accordingly encamped at Baice yesterday, and at this ground this forenoon.

On the 8th instant I addressed a letter to the Quarter Master-General of the Army for the information of Government, intimating my intention to march the troops back to Berar in two columns, one by Shapoor and Multai to Amraoti, and the other by Hoshangabad, Seoni and Burhanpur into the western side of Berar the former column to proceed in two successive divisions. The first division will accordingly cross the Nerbudda tomorrow in order to proceed on its march the following day.

By the time the two columns I, hope to be honoured with the instructions of Government on the disposition which I have submitted in my dispatch to the Quarter Master-General, or on any arrangements which may be resolved on for stationing the troops at Amraoti or other part of the frontier

Letter No 35.—Close reports that the Wakeel of Vazeer Mohammed Khan had come to him with proposals for a mediation between the Rajah of Nagpur and Vazeer Mohammed Khan who was not inclined to negotiate with the Rajah without the mediation of the British and a guarantee of protection from the British. His report is also important as it suggests the change in the mind of Raghojee regarding the establishment of a British force on the Nerbudda.

FROM—COLONEL B. CLOSE.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Hoshangabad the 2nd March 1810

Vazeer Mohammed's Wakeel returned from Bhopal at the time nearly which he had appointed and at my first interview with him after his return I discovered that Vazeer Mohammed having no reliance on the faith of the Rajah of Nagpur would decline to come to an agreement with him unless the several stipulations should be formally guaranteed by the British Government.

I discoursed with the Wakeel for some time explaining to him that the guarantee of the British Government to the proposed accommodation was never in contemplation. He said that Vazeer Mohammed had always relied on the justice and clemency of the British Government that he was unable to expel the Pindaries that it was from necessity alone that he acted with Meer Khan that Sindhia had sold the Bhopal Government to Raghojee Bhonsla that were Vazeer Mohammed to stipulate with the latter without the guarantee of the Honourable Company he would stipulate only for his ruin.

That were he to conclude an agreement with the Rajah of Nagpur of a nature both offensive and defensive, with a view to have the Rajah's aid against the Pindaries and the hostile attempts of Dowlat Rao Sindhia still the guarantee of the British Government would be indispensable that protected by the guarantee he would be free from apprehension and secure the Nagpur Government would enjoy tranquillity and safety and the districts of north sides recover from their present condition but that without the guarantee the benefit would be solely on the side of the Rajah who would pursue old designs, and if necessary again call in the aid of Dowlat Rao Sindhia. Finding that the guarantee was considered by Vazeer Mohammed as a I resolved that the reply brought by the Bhopal Wakeel should be stated to Sadik Ali Khan in order that the mediation should cease. The Wakeel Sadik Ali and Jaikishan Pant accordingly met at my tent yesterday evening. In stating Vazeer Mohammed's reply to the three articles proposed the Wakeel made it appear that in his master's opinion an agreement between him and the Rajah of Nagpur would be naturally useful unless it should be so liberal as to promise the restitution of Baree and other districts, be of a nature defensive and offensive and be supported by the guarantee of the

British Government Sadik Ali objected to the proposition for making the terms of the accomodation so extensive, said that should it take place on the ground proposed, and a happy intercourse between the two Governments be the consequence, further articles might in time be added for the advantage of both sides I observed that although I was prepared to any arrangement which should be concluded I could not possibly grant the guarantee of Honourable Company, an act which I had not in contemplation. A conversation now ensued between Sadik Ali and the Vakeel which had no desirable issue, and at length I told the Vakeel, that as Vazeer Mohammed had withheld his assent from the three articles proposed, requiring that the agreement should not only be made more extensive, but be supported by the guarantee of the Honourable Company which could not be granted, I found he would accordingly give intimation to his master, who would consider himself as continuing under the displeasure of the British Government according to the explanation which I had made when the negotiation commenced Here the Vakeel went into a justification of his master's demands stating that his aim was only to have provoked, and be placed in the possibility of recovering under just engagement what from want of strength, he had unfortunately lost I judged it unnecessary to make any reply, and the meeting broke up After the Vakeel had retired, Sadik Ali secured to regret, that the part I took to effect and told him, that although I was obliged to the mediation, still it was open to the Rajah to come to such an accommodation with the Bhopal Government, as he should judge consistent with his interests I formerly adverted to considerations which induced me to think that any course of proceeding calculated to Vazeer Mohammed into a compliance with certain demands, as an atonement for his past conduct, would ultimately fail of effecting him under the impression, that he continues to sustain the displeasure of Government

Letter No 36—The letter reports the excursions of the Pindaries into the dominions of the Nizam and the Peshwa They went far into Hyderabad territories, crossed the Godavari and then returned through Peshwa's dominions

FROM—HENERY RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, the 17th November 1810

1 A body of Pindaries, amounting to about five thousand, said to belong to Karim Khan and Seetoo Dhurras, have lately made an irruption into the Peshwa's territories They came from the direction of Burhanpur, crossed the Puina at Edlabad, and passing

along the foot of the hills near Ajanta penetrated by the Kasseer barry Ghat which is farther to the westward. They then separated into different parties and spread themselves over the surrounding country where they met with nothing either to repel or to reside. But the main body passed the Godavary at Ioolumba and penetrated with astonishing rapidity as far as Sanganner an open town in the charge of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar not more than seventy miles from Poona in a N N E direction. They plundered the town and then moved with the same rapidity as before to the north west as far as Nasik but the town being occupied by a small party of the Peshwa's Horse they did not enter it but moved off as precipitately as they came plundering every side of them in the direction of Chandur and retired through one of the Ghats into Chandore range of hills. They are supposed to have recrossed the Tapti immediately.

A considerable body of the Pindaries and about five or six thousand of Meer Khan's and Shirpat Ram's troops are reported to have collected between the Nerbudda and the Tapti. The settlement of Holkar's districts in Khandesh is assigned as the professed reason for the advance of Meer Khan's and Shirpat Ram's troops so far towards the southward.

3. When the accounts of the irruption of the Pindaries reached Poona it was too late to think of taking any steps to defend the country from their excesses. But I pressed the Peshwa and the Minister as I have done over and over again before to order a sufficient body of troops both of their own and of the Jagheerdars whose districts are in that direction to move towards the N W frontier and to keep them permanently stationed there to defend it. The necessity of this measure was too obvious at the moment if any objection to be made to it and the Sindhia therefore immediately desired the Peshwa to detach a body of his own troops under Trimbakjee Danglia and to order Balloba the Vinchoor Jagirdar's Diwan Madhoo Rao Rastuaji and the head of Poorun derce family all of whose districts have now been plundered by the Pindaries to send forward as many of their troops as they could collect. But although these orders were given a fortnight ago the only apparent step that has yet been taken towards fulfilling them on the part either of the Minister or of the Jagheerdar is the pitching of three or four small tents outside the city.

4. The Peshwa himself especially the Minister seem to be quite indifferent to the state of those districts, which being granted out in Surrunjamee or Jagheer produce no immediate revenue in money to the Prince. For their own personal safety and for the protection of the Government against all serious aggression, they repose in the most indolent security upon us. As to the Jagheerdars themselves so obstinately blind are they to their own most essential interests and so great is their insensibility to dangers which do not immediately stare them in the face, that I am persuaded they had at any time rather allow their country to be plundered

of a lack of rupees than lay out ten thousand to defend it against the plunderers. Notwithstanding the importance of the Peshwa's districts in Khandesh and the degree in which their local situation exposes them to the incursions of the Pindaries and notwithstanding the urgency with which the Peshwa has constantly been pressed by the Resident to maintain a force adequate to their defence, I really believe that at this time a thousand horse, and perhaps, two thousand foot which are generally employed against the Bheels, the utmost extent of the troops of every description that either the Peshwa or the Jagirdars have in this portion of Khandesh

5 I understand by a letter which I have lately received from Mr Cole, that object of the mission on the part of the Rajah of Kolhapore to Mysore which was mentioned by me in the seventh and six following paragraphs of my address to your Lordship No. 18, dated the 15th of October, was to obtain the co-operation not of the Mysore but of the Company's Government, and that Hanumant Rao finding nothing could be accomplished towards the object of his mission at Mysore had proceeded to Madras, and had again passed Mysore in the latter end of October on his return from Madras towards Kolhapore

6 Chintaman Rao lately went from Sanglee with about a thousand horse to a place called Inchulcaroonjee about twenty miles from Sanglee and rather less from Kolhapore, with the intention of meeting the Rajah. But Appa Desai hearing of his design, and knowing that the chief object of the projected arrangements between the Rajah and Chintaman Rao was to attack him, moved immediately with a respectable force from Nipaune to Hoopuree and threw himself between Chintaman Rao and Kolhapore. Chintaman Rao remained several days at Inchulcaroonjee but finding that Appa Desai has resolved to prevent his advancing farther he retired to Sanglee, and Appa Desai also has returned to his usual place of residence at Nipaune

7 Since I last had the honour to address your Lordship, His Highness the Peshwa has given his son the name of Vahmun Rao, the name taken by Vishnu in his fifth incarnation of the Marhatta's even the highest classes of them, are quite as superstitious as the natives of the other parts of India in their method of fixing the names of their children. On the eighteenth day after the birth of the child, which was pronounced by the astrologers to be the most auspicious that occurred, a number of small papers on each of which was written the name of a Hindu deity, were thrown promiscuously in front of the Idols, before which the Peshwa generally performs his devotions and a child was desired to select one from among them. The child selected the paper on which Vahmun Rao was written and that name therefore was immediately fixed on for the young Prince

8 The money given away in charity and presents by the Peshwa on this occasion, amounts, I understand to about seven and eight lacs of rupees, and thousand five hundred maunds

of sugar have been distributed to all the inhabitants of Poona and the different people those come in from the neighbouring countries as well as the rich. The Minister's nephew adopted son Anandhumerce Madhoo Rao Rastnah and a few other persons selected by the Peshwa went through the city in different directions with elephants loaded with sugar and at every house that they passed however obscure or miserable it might be left a pound of sugar with Peshwa's name and half a pound in the Minister's. All persons of distinction had sugar sent to them in quantities proportionate to their rank. On the day I called upon the Peshwa to congratulate him he insisted upon having two trays of sugar immediately set before me in his presence although the proper time for observing that form had not yet arrived in order as he said that I might be the first person to whom the compliment was paid. And he afterwards sent Krishnajece Mankeshwar and the Minister sent his own adopted son to the Residency with trays of sugar from each of them at the time the general distribution was going on in the city.

9 The Peshwa has not yet fixed a day for receiving the presents that are to be made to him. I find upon collecting the different articles of jewelery and cloth which will be necessary that in addition to a few of those already in store which are of a description fit to be used upon such occasions the actual expense in presents for the Peshwa himself his two wives and the young Prince will hardly exceed eighteen thousand rupees.

10 When Krishnajece Mankeshwar and the Minister's adopted son came to the Residency it was necessary for me to make presents to them. I gave the former a Jugha a Surpeich string of pearls a pair of shawls and a set of clothes and the latter a surpaucho, a pair of shawls and a set of clothes. But all those articles, jewels, as well as clothes I took out of the public stores.

11 I lately made an excursion for a few days in the country immediately round Poona and was received and treated every where with the greatest respect and attention. Among other places I went to Purander which is considered I believe especially by the natives themselves to be the strongest hill fort in this part of the country and notwithstanding the dislike they generally have of showing the inside of their forts to us I was admitted by the Peshwa's particular order into the innermost part of Purander and shown over all the works. When I left the fort the officer in charge of it presented me with a pair of shawls and a dress and each of the gentlemen who accompanied me with a set of clothes.

12. The Peshwa complained to me that his brother Chinnajece Appa had gone on a religious excursion to Dowree and Neemgaon two small places of the bank of the Bhima River without paying him the proper compliments without giving him any previous notice of his intention. Chinnajece Appa returned to Poona after being absent for a few days. It is by occasional marks of disrespect and inattention of the which whenever they occur on the

Chimnajee Appa's part, are studiously aggravated by the Minister, that the disagreement between the Peshwa and his brother is irritated and kept up and it happens most unfortunately that the instances however trifling in themselves constitute together one of the occasions of all others in which, although it is very easy for an enemy to do a great deal of harm but difficult for a friend to do any good

Letter No 37—The letter reports that a body of Pindaries has crossed the Nerbudda and appeared near Hinganghat This had led to certain precautions being taken for the protection of Nagpur

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL H CONRAN, COMMANDING AT JALNA

Nagpur, the 21st November 1810

Intelligence has been received by the Rajah that a fresh body of Pindaries has lately crossed the Nerbudda at Handia and is expected to take the route of Berar

The party which has been lately plundering in this neighbourhood was last heard of about Hinganghat about 24 coss south of Nagpur whether they proceeded after making the circuit I before described, the Rajah's troops have been ineffectually sent out in different bodies to pursue them and are now returned to Nagpur. A force however of about 1,400 horse and 200 Infantry with 6 guns has been fixed at Patansaongi, 8 Coss to the Northward of this city and another body of horse at Lodeekhara about 12 coss beyond that place. Orders have also been issued to the different Zamindars and others who have the charge of stopping the passes in the hills, by which the Pindaries can penetrate in this direction, to be more careful in future, however experience has shown that this mode of defence is not to be depended on

Letter No 38—This report from an "Akbar" forms an enclosure to the Resident's letter. The "Akbar" reports the rapid movements of the Pindaries

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL H CONRAN, COMMANDING AT JALNA

Nagpur, the 22nd November 1810.

Kalfa Dhurra of the Sindhia Shahee and Holkar Shahee Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateerghat set out in the direction of Burhanpore. These Pindaries did not go to Burhanpore, but entering Berar, they plundered Teewasgaon and Neri, burnt a few houses at Parseoni and passing the Berolee Ghat

near Betul came and encamped at Temilhagaon two coss from Bhandegaon near Saohgarh. Jairam Pant with Bhadu Gond Roop-sah Thakur and Chandra Shah Thakur came upon them unawares retook from them two elephants and 5 horses which they had carried off from Kellode and made one Pindary prisoner. With the exception of the elephants and horses all plunder was left to the Captors and those of the Pindaries whose horses were fresh re-crossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateer Ghat that night.

A second time a party of Pindaries crossed the Nerbudda at the Buglateer Ghat and proceeding by the route of Puthurwara Sohagpur and Teegaon plundered Mohpa and Dhapewara. These returning by Berolee Ghat and Putharwara recrossed the Nerbudda at the Bharkus Ghat three coss from Babuce and went to their chaoni at Katephora Jeeewagaon and Kunoj in the neighbourhood of Goonergurh.

The Dhurra of Karim's son is at Bhopal. Their horses are all ready shod. Dost Mohammed Pindary is at Geearuspoore between Bhilsa and Seronje. Jeswant Rao Duttajee was encamped at Ramgarh but has moved to Kisanpore. Baba Seik (an auxiliary of Vazeer Mohammed Khan and the Pindaries) is at Shoragaon on this side of Patgarh Barra and Chota Ramjan Pindaries are encamped at Gopalpore on this side of Setwars and five coss north of the Nerbudda which they were about to cross.

Letter No 39.—The letter intimates that a body of Pindaries 6000 strong had appeared at Betul and some had even plundered a place 4 coss from Nagpur.

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL CONRAN COMMANDING AT JALNA.

Nagpur the 15th/16th December 1810

I this morning received a letter from my newswriter at Betul stating that a body of Pindaries said to be 6000 in number had appeared in that neighbourhood and people have just come in from Tuckia a place about 4 coss from hence on the road to Amraoti who mention their having plundered that place and their having proceeded in a South Westerly direction.

It is possible that this body may cross the Wardha into Berar perhaps about Nachangaon.

P. S.—This letter should have been dispatched yesterday but that the Dak road was beset by Pindaries. These freebooters seem to be at present down in great number and are bolder than ever in their approaches to the city.

A party from my escort went out yesterday afternoon to recover an elephant which the Pindaries had carried away. The party was successful in the object after a pursuit of about 20 miles and besides killed two Pindaries and took one prisoner bringing in likewise, three horses.

Letter No 40 —The letter describes the route by which Nana Sahib was to go to Allahabad

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—J RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BANDA

Nagpur, the 12th January 1811

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 24th ultimo and lose no time in acquainting you that I have just had an official communication from the Durbai informing me that Nana Sahib will proceed by Jabbulpore as originally intended and not by Ratanpore, as I was given to understand by his Highness's manager

I paid His Highness a farewell visit yesterday, and explained to him and the Rajah the contents of your letter. They both expressed themselves much gratified by your attention and particularly pleased with the deputation of a person on your part to Jabbulpore and your intention to visit Nana Sahib

Nana Sahib marches I believe certainly on Monday next the 14th instant

I propose to send a duplicate of this letter to Salamat Ali to be forwarded direct, and I shall at the same time inform him of Nana Sahib's route being fixed, to provide for the possible case of his receiving counter orders from you in consequence of my last communication

Letter No 41 —The letter refers to reports about the "assignment of a tract of country in the vicinity of Nizam's frontier to the Pindaries on condition of their abstaining from plundering and molesting the territories of the Rajah" He mentions that a similar arrangement had been made to persuade Karim Khan and Cheetoo to refrain from their loot and devastation of the country of the Rajah, but to no useful purpose

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—C RUSSELL, ACTING RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur, the 9th March 1811

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 26th ultimo

The intelligence therein stated to have been received by the Government of Hyderabad relative to the assignment of a tract of country in the vicinity of the Nizam's frontier to the Pindaries, on the condition of their abstaining from plundering and molesting

the territories of the Rajah seems to be not without foundation. On a former occasion it is probably not unknown to you a similar assignment was made of the districts of Singpore Babee and others in the vicinity of Hoshangabad on this side of the Ner budda to one of the Pindary Chieftains on the occasion of the seizure of Karim and Sectoo by Sindhia and in consequence of the inefficacy of the arrangement to the purpose intended this Government took the opportunity of resuming

During the invasion of Meer Khan negotiations were again commenced with the Pindary Chiefs known by the names of Burra and Chitrangan for the restoration of these places to their authority but nothing was decided. These chiefs however received some pecuniary advances from the Rajah both then and since which have in a great measure prevented them with their brethren in their incursions in this quarter and a Vakil has occasionally resided on their part at Nagpur.

The present Vakeel named Khan Mohammed came here shortly after the formidable irruption which took place in these territories in December last and I understand that through his agency a negotiation has been opened with Karim relative to the assignment of the districts in question to that predatory chief jointly with the others. The only point of difference seems to be the extent of the new assignment which as it is intended include a greater number of interests amongst the Pindaries is naturally expected by them to be more ample than formerly and it is expected that a Vakeel from Karim will shortly proceed hitherto represent more fully the interests of his master.

Considering the late application of the Rajah for a British force to be stationed in his territories it is natural to conclude that the present negotiations on the part of this Court are merely of a temporizing nature and that their being brought to a conclusion will depend upon the success or failure of that application of which the principal object no doubt is to secure the Rajah's dominions from the incursions of the Pindaries. Should the Rajah not succeed in his application I apprehend that his dread of those freebooters who will become more formidable than ever by the release of their ancient leaders must lead to some arrangement of the nature in question.

Experience has shown that under the present system of his Government the Rajah cannot depend upon his troops for the slightest exertion even to protect his capital from insult and the least resort of weakness is to temporize with dangers which it cannot withstand and to purchase a transitory security by sacrifices which in the end rather hasten than retard the period of its downfall.

Letter No 42 —Jenkins reports that the Pindaries had plundered Pownee a place near Nagpur and set fire to a part of it without gaining any plunder. There was a rumour that Karim Khan had crossed the Nerbudda with a large band of Pindaries and threatens to come down on Nagpur. Jenkins therefore required that his escort and their weapons be augmented and a reinforcement from Hyderabad Subsidiary force be sent immediately.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING HYDERABAD
SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 26th November 1811

You will probably have heard of the irruption of a body of Pindaries belonging to Karim into these territories, of their near approach to this city and of their actual success in setting fire to one quarter of it, although without gaining any plunder of consequence.

These Pindaries proceeding to the Southward plundered the large town of Powni and other places. They were by the last accounts near the Waidha in the direction of Wunnee Waroia, and are not yet apparently returning to the Northward although it is ten days since they made their appearance here. Their number is certainly not less than four thousand.

The Rajah has since received intelligence that Karim himself has crossed the Nerbudda with six or eight thousand more Pindaries, some infantry and rocketmen, and four guns. It is understood that the party now down will form a junction with that and that unless the Rajah makes some arrangement, in time, to pay him off, he will come down to Nagpur.

In anticipation of these occurrences I some time ago suggested to Government the danger to which the British Residency might eventually be exposed, and solicited a temporary augmentation of the escort by a gun or such other reinforcement as might be thought proper. I am in daily expectation of an answer, but as the call may be immediate I have this day written to the Nabob Salabar Khan requesting a reinforcement from him with a gun if he can spare it without danger to the country he has to protect, and one of the objects of this letter is to make you acquainted with this state of circumstances and to request that if you should think yourself authorized to comply with my application you will have the goodness to send such a reinforcement to our escort which consists of two pretty strong companies of Infantry and twenty-five of the Madras body Guard, as you may judge adequate.

Our premises are too extensive to be defended by our present force especially without a gun and with this to secure ourselves against the attacks of infantry we ought to have at least one hundred additional firelocks besides the probability that a formidable appearance would deter the Pindaries from those attempts against us which they might otherwise be emboldened to make.

Another object of my communication to which however I shall briefly allude as from its being of more importance you may not think yourself authorized to act upon it is the suggestion that Karim may probably continue on this side of the Nerbudda during the greater part of the present season and that should matters be amicably settled with the Rajah of Berar may require the presence of your force for its protection

I shall forward a copy of this letter to Mr Russell and at the same time I hope you may be able to comply with my request for a reinforcement on your own authority and without the delay of reference you will of course at no distant period receive his instructions applicable to both points of this communication

Letter No 43.—Jenkins points out the justification for calling for a reinforcement to augment his own escort and for aiding the Bhonsla in his efforts to drive out the Pindaries if they attacked in large numbers under Karim Khan. The exodus of Karim Khan to territories south of the Nerbudda is due to the Military preparations of the Sindhia. If he attacks Nagpur he is also likely to sweep into Berar. Hence all precautions have to be taken against this possibility

FROM—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR—

TO—H RUSSELL RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur the 26th November 1811

I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Colonel Conran

The necessity of the moment will I should hope be considered to justify any call for a reinforcement from the only British Cantonment with any moderate distance, and as the occasion will probably be only temporary I feel confident that you will find yourself at liberty to confirm my application to Colonel Conran

My late dispatches will have made you fully acquainted with the state of affairs in this quarter and with the sentiments which the progressive increase of the power of the Pindaries has led me to entertain. My suggestion in consequence of Karim having crossed the Nerbudda with guns and infantry regarding the probability of his continuance to the Southward of that river and the danger to which Berar would be exposed is merely noticed to Colonel Conran. Karim is said to have brought his family with him and to have been led to the step in some measures by the military preparations of Sindhia, which I conclude to be those mentioned in the last dispatch to Government of the Resident at the Court of that Prince. Whether those preparations are or are not directed against the Pindaries and Mr Strachey thinks they are not it is natural that Karim should remove himself from all danger either of force or treachery particularly when the mode in which he was

formerly seized is taken into consideration. As long therefore as Baptiste continues in the vicinity of Raghogarh or Bhopal, Karim may be expected to remain at a distance and on this side of the Nerbudda.

But his first operations as they have commenced against the Rajah will I should conceive be still directed towards this quarter, and if the Rajah does not buy him off with money or territory or as I believe his demand is, with both, he will in all likelihood come down to Nagpur. Whether Karim succeeds in plundering the city or a part of it or extorts money and territory from the Rajah, Berar will be exposed as his next object, and he cannot plunder Nagpur without adding greatly to his reputation, to the numbers of his followers and to his equipments in guns and military stores. At all events the Rajah has at this moment no force ready to meet him in the field and he could only repulse any attack which might be made on his capital.

In any case the followers of Karim if beat off at Nagpur, would seek for indemnification some where else and Berar is the country immediately within their reach.

Although therefore I am aware that Government does not consider the Subsidiary force to be intended to act against Pindaries, (as mere desultory plunderers of course) yet if it appears that a great independent Government like that of the Rajah, cannot oppose an effectual resistance to them even in protecting its capital from insult and perhaps plunder, and if under these circumstances the great force of these plunderers is united under its principal leader and with a proportion of infantry and guns in a situation to invade the territories of our ally I am inclined to think that it will become necessary for us, to co-operate with the troops of that ally in preventing such an invasion. On this subject however, I can only offer my opinion although I conceive that I should have been deficient in duty if I neglected to state the circumstances above described.

Letter No 44 — Jenkins reports the formidable strength of Cheetoo and Karim Khan and their objective of wresting Garha Mandla from the Bhonsla. Their strength and equipments, and the possibility of their attacking Nagpur had spread panic in Nagpur. The danger for Berar is also suggested.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDER-
ABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE AT JALNA

Nagpur, the 28th November 1811

Having last night received accounts from my news-writer in Karim's Camp, dated 12 days ago, and from that of Seetoo, of as late a date as six days ago, I deem it proper to make you acquainted with the substance of them.

The Rajah's intelligence, which I communicated in my letter to your address dated the 6th of Karim having crossed the Nerbudda seems to have been premature. Seetoo however with his followers said to be about 8,000 horse 1,000 Infantry and 8 guns (the guns my Hircarrahs say they counted) is certainly encamped on the southern bank of the Nerbudda at Neelee about 4 coss from Sutwar which is to the northward of the river. Seetoo has his family with him.

My Hircarrahs left the camp of Karim at Khyree about 20 coss North of the Nerbudda in company with Udajee Naik who was sent by the Rajah to negotiate Karim's demands now under reference to the Rajah are said to be six lacks of Rupees in cash and the cession of Garrah Mandla and to settle the matter in case the Rajah will treat on such a basis Karim proposed to send a person to Nagpur as his Vakeel. Udajee Naik had returned to Seetoo's Camp but was afterwards recalled to that of Karim.

The demand of the Pindary Chief if they are correctly stated must reduce the Rajah to the necessity and the disgrace of dismembering from his Government's its richest province or of risking the plunder of his capital denounced as the alternative. Karim was understood to be on the point of moving down to the Nerbudda to give weight to his negotiations.

He has with him two battalions of Infantry said to be two thousand strong disciplined and commanded by an European of the name of Ball fourteen guns of different calibres and six or eight thousand horse which are independent of the body still in the Rajah's territories and in Berar they are also said to be independent of many parties of horse and Infantry scattered over the districts he has usurped.

My writer further describes the most solemn oaths of fraternity and mutual support to have been lately exchanged between the chiefs of all the principal parties of the Pindaries and Karim.

Seetoo had written to Karim that he was about to send a body of his followers to plunder in the Nizam's territories and they were to be joined by a reinforcement from the other great body. I believe the two parties united have since taken the direction of Burhanpur.

The alarm in Nagpur is, as you may suppose, very great and does not appear to be less in the councils of the Rajah than elsewhere but it does not lead to the most rational measures of defence. Nothing in the present intelligence although in some respects different from the former others indeed it is rather calculated to confirm the opinions I have already expressed, relative to the dangerous state of the Rajah's affairs to the mutual risk to Berar and to the necessity of the British Residency being early placed in a respectable posture of defence. So to this latter object I am convinced you will contribute as far as may be in your power.

Letter No 45 —Jenkins reports that the Pindari Chief Karim Khan had “put the Rajah’s (Bhonsla’s) agent Udajee Naik in irons” on the ground that the latter’s correspondence with his master which had been intercepted betrayed a lack of sincerity on the part of the Bhonsla. How the Bhonsla was preparing to resist the attack of Pindaries on Nagpur is described.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING HYDER-
ABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 2nd December 1811

Since I last had the honour to address you, the only intelligence from the Nerbudda which has reached Nagpur, mentions that Karim had put the Rajah’s Agent, Udajee Naik, in irons, immediately on his return to the Camp. This measure, so hostile to all future negotiation between Karim and the Rajah, is said to have been adopted in consequence of some intercepted letters of Udajee Naik’s correspondence with his master, which indicated an entire want of sincerity on His Highness’s part. However this may be, the door to reconciliation would I should think be now completely shut.

The Rajah is preparing for the defence of his capital with renewed activity in consequence of the intelligence above described and is calling in all his troops to meet the impending danger. Batteries are erecting on different points round the town and all the streets are barricading. Should time be given to mature all these preparations, one may hope that the doubtful success of any attempt against the city, besides the fear of our operations should your force advance for the better security of Bejar, will deter the Pindary Chief from bringing down infantry and guns. Although he would then, in all probability, endeavour to possess himself of the Rajas’s northern territories, which will be completely open to his attacks.

Letter No 46 —Jenkins thanks the Colonel for sending a reinforcement so readily to him. He further writes about the widespread activities of the Pindaries, as far south as Chanda and their parties spread over the territories south of the Nerbudda. The release of Udhojee Naik from fetters, the possibility of an alliance between the Nawab of Bhopal and Karim Khan, and the withdrawing of forces from distant parts of his dominions by the Bhonsla are the other points of the letter.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDER-
ABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 11th December 1811

I should sooner have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 30th November and returned you my thanks for your ready

compliance with my request for a reinforcement had I received any intelligence of importance to communicate relative to the Pindaries I have now further had the honour to receive your dispatch of the 4th instant

Karim by the last account was still at his former encampment and Udajee Naik although released from his fetters at the intercession of Seetoo is represented to be kept by Karim as an hostage for the granting of his demands by the Rajah. Those demands it has been confirmed to me by the Rajah's Minister Jeswant Rao Ramchandra extend to the cession of Garrah Mandla terms impossible for His Highness to accede to without confessing a degree of weakness incompatible with any kind of resistance to that predatory chief.

In the meantime the Rajah's country has continued to be overrun by the Pindaries. A part of the large body which came down by Nagpur in the middle of last month has plundered part of the town of Chanda without the walls and was four or five days ago on its return to the Northward near the Wardha about Wunnee Wurtoora. As nothing further has been heard of it it has probably followed the great body through Berar to Burhanpore.

Another party of four or five hundred remained in the neighbourhood of Geerhur and Bissee places not far south of Nagpur until within these few days. Where they are gone, I have not heard.

A third large body said to be five or six thousand encamped at Adegaon near the Nerbudda in the Jubbulpore direction for five or six days. Parties from it plundered the country about Seoni Chappara, and the whole were last heard of in Garrah Mandla near Jubbulpore.

My news-writer at Betul mentions a new horde to have been prepared to move from the Nerbudda, on Sunday last but whether in this direction or towards Berar does not yet appear.

An attempt was lately made by a party either of Pindaries, or of the Nabob of Bhopal's horse to cut off some infantry with four guns on their march to join Sadik Ali at Sohagpur. In this they did not succeed. The Bhopal troops with some Infantry and guns are said to be about to cross the Nerbudda near Chainpore Barree, to attack the Rajah's force under Jeswant Rao Duttajee encamped near the confluence of the Sukkur Nadi with the Nerbudda.

These various operations of the Pindaries and their ally Vazeer Mohammed Khan would seem to show that Karim was not yet resolved to carry into execution his threat of attacking the Rajah in his capital. It may be observed however that by allowing his followers to supply their immediate necessities by indiscriminate plunder in the first instance, he will be better able to concentrate their exertions when he required them, to that one object. The difficulty of doing this, is no doubt the greatest and almost the

only obstacle to the success of any attempt of the kind if Karim seriously intends to make any whilst the Rajah's preparations for defence are still imperfect

The impression on the Rajah and his Ministers seems to be that such an attempt will be made, and the orders are reiterated to the different forces on the frontier to proceed hither without delay. Excepting however the small force of Anand Rao Dhundeeraj arrived at Pandhurna, the others are still at a distance

Letter No. 47—Jenkins reports that parties of Pindaries were at Seoni and that Karim Khan was going to cross the Nerbudda very soon.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE
HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 12th December 1811

I was this morning favoured with your letter of the 7th instant. In the dispatch which I had yesterday the honour to address to you I mentioned a report to have reached me from Betul of a fresh body of Pindaries being expected to cross the Nerbudda about Sunday last the 8th instant. In the course of the evening I received accounts to the same effect from my news-writer at Seoni and today I have had another report from the latter place dated the 8th which states that Karim himself was expected to have crossed the Nerbudda on that or the following day with the avowed purpose of coming down to Nagpur.

The parties of Seetoo, the Runjans and others are said to be in a league to oppose this step, but the same was believed previously to the last irruption, to which however no resistance was made.

I have not heard whether Karim is supposed to intend bringing down guns and infantry. If he does his movements must necessarily be less rapid, but if he does not, he may reach this neighbourhood in a few days.

I shall send a copy of this letter to Major Custance, who I concluded, will be near Amraoti today and shall keep him informed of anything else I may hear respecting the Pindaries.

I have not yet received any accounts directly from the Camp of Karim.

The same as the above to—

Major Custance, dated 12th

Henry Russell, dated 12th

M Elphinstone, date 13th

R Strachey, Esq, dated 16th

C T Metacalfe, dated 16th

Letter No 48—The letter reports the news from Akhbars that Sindhia's troops had been planning an attack on Karim Khan. If this is true Karim Khan cannot cross the Nerbudda to attack Nagpur territories. The extracts from the Akhbars enclosed are interesting.

FROM—R JINKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur the 13th December 1811

I have the honour to enclose extracts of Akhbars from Karim's Camp down to the 2nd instant which arrived last night. The Hircarrahs who brought them left the Camp on the 3rd and mention that an incursion towards Nagpur was talked of as about to be made on the return of the different parties from the Southward. A large body from that quarter they say recrossed the Nerbudda on the 4th with a great deal of plunder.

If it be true that Sindhia's troops as mentioned in the Akhbars are on the point of acting against Karim it would be difficult to imagine that he can be at liberty either to come down himself or to detach any considerable body of Pindaries to this quarter at the present moment. No safe conclusion can however be come to until it be seen whether Sindhia's measures are really directed against him and if they are what course he himself will pursue.

The same as the above to —

- (1) H Russell Esquire, dated the 14th
- (2) M Elphinstone Esquire, dated the 15th
- (3) R. Strachey and C T Metcalfe Esquire dated the 17th

Extracts of Akhbars from the Camp of Karim Khan at Khayree

Sunday 28th Shuval.—Today Quadir Baksh Burrun's son arrived from his excursion towards Nagpur. Besides a good deal of plunder he brought two Hircarrah Camels belonging to Rajah Raghojee Bhonsla.

Sunday 29th Shuval.—Quadir Baksh brought to the Nawab Karim Khan Sarfarazuddoula letters from Rajah Raghojee addressed to the Nawab Cheetoo Khan and others and to Udhajee Naik, which contained reasonable matter in consequence of which Namdar Khan and Mohammed Bux Khan were sent to seize and bring back Udhajee Naik to Camp. Such an alarm prevailed in the camp as is not to be described and the Nawab seized all the spice in the possession of the Sahukars and Banias as a fine. On hearing of the approach of Bapoo Sindhia and Jagannath Rao Bapoo with a large force, the Nabob had a consultation with Narainsingh, Sindhia's Vakeel whom he despatched with copies of Rajah Raghojee's letters to Bapoo Sahib and sent a news-writer and Hircarrah with him for intelligence.

Monday, 1st of Zeelqad —At noon Namdar Khan arrived with Udajee Naik. After showing him his master's letters and venting abuse against the Duckanees, the Nawab confined him under a guard of Mewatees.

Tuesday, 2nd —Orders were sent to Karim Gaih and Shujawalpore, to be circumspect, and ready in case of danger. On hearing that Vazeer Mohammed Khan had put a Pindairah to death, the Nawab held a consultation, and it was determined to be proper to seek for friendship with Bhopal.

Wednesday, 3rd —It was determined to send Qadir Bux to Bhopal.

Thursday, 4th —Qadir Bux set off for Bhopal. News arrived that Meer Khan had written this to Bapoo Sindhia. It would seem that you have had intentions, this is not proper. We Musalmans are all brothers. The Nawab was highly pleased at this.

Friday, 5th —Fifty infantry were entertained through Nana Bhaskar the Ashteh Wala. A letter arrived from Cheetoo to this purport. Be easy with regard to this quarter and dismiss Udajee Naik.

Saturday, 6th —Two hundred and fifty Rohillas, Telangas, etc., arrived for service. On hearing that Bapoo Sindhia was near Turanah, and that the Zamindars of Oomutwarra were beginning to revolt, the Nawab ordered the battallions to the latter quarter.

Sunday, 7th —Nawab sent his Palankeen to bring into camp Kadir Sahib—a Peerzada from the Deccan, and ordered Udajee Naik to write his demands to Nagpur.

Monday, 8th —The Nawab was praising Holkar and disparaging Sindhia and some of his Chiefs Bapoo Sindhia, Ramachandra, Falkeea Fakeerjee Garwa and others in terms too gross to be mentioned. Ramachandra Feelkeea's Vakeel who was present said that this kind of discourse was not proper as Sindhia had services for him to perform, had released him for the purpose of Mirzapore and Bundelkhand, and had demanded from the Company Agra, Mathura, etc., which if he did not get, other means must be pursued. The Nawab said if Sindhia knew his own mind and was to be relied on, I would have done every thing required.

Tuesday, 9th —Qadir Bux arrived from Bhopal. He said that Vazeer Mohammed was much displeased with Karim, but had now written that if Bapoo Sindhia, Juggoo Bapoo and Baptiste come against him he might without apprehension send his family and baggage of Bhopal. The Pirzada this day arrived. Bhuwani the Jemadar of Hircarrahs, represented that 50 thousand horse and infantry had been appointed by Sindhia to chastize Karim and had arrived near Shujawalpore.

Wednesday 10th.—The Nawab visited the Peerzada and presented him with a valuable Khullat Imam Bux Sahib Khan and other Jemadars represented that they were all firmly attached to the Nawab but that Cheetoo was treacherous that he made his peace with Sindhia through Meena Bai and had attained territory from Rajah Raghojee. A pair of Hircarrahs brought a letter from Heeroo Pindarah to this effect March towards Ketchwara. Aroome and other five Mahals are allotted as your Jaidad If you delay troops will be sent against you An Arzee arrived from Ratankuwar and others mentioning that they were at Shujawalpore with the three battalions A reply was sent directing them to proceed to the Oomutwarree.

Thursday 11th.—The Nawab visited the Peerzada and had a consultation with him and the principal Jemadars Udhoojee Naik was also sent for and presented a Nazar to the Peerzada The Nawab at this moment asked the Peerzada to give him his hands as a token of his protection The latter replied that he had urged Cheetoo and Ramjan Khan to unite with Karim and they had promised to do so The Peerzada then wrote letters to those chiefs and prevailed on Sahib Khan and Imam Bux to go to bring them. He also wrote to Dost Mohammed and it is reported that he also will come A letter was then written by the Nawab to Heeroo promising that when the parties which were to the Southward returned he would according to the Maharajah's orders proceed towards the Ketchewarra Since the news has been received of Sindhia's troops proceeding against him Nabab has been thinking of sending troops to cut off their supplies and foraging parties and will proceed to attack them when his whole force is collected. The Zamindars of Omutwarra and Shujawalpore and other places belonging to the Nabob are becoming refractory

Friday 12th.—Letters arrived from Sindhia's Vakeel Narain Singh and the news-writer who went to the camp of Bapoo Sindhia mentioning that the whole of his Army was encamped at Teranch and that they had settled all matters in the Nawab's favour but the Hircarrahs represented that the Army would certainly march to Shujawalpore on the arrival of Jeshwant Rao Bhau A letter arrived from Cheetoo respecting Udhajee Naik's release. The Nawab returned an answer and sent copies of Rajah Raghojee's intercepted letters.

Saturday the 13th.—A Sooqqu from Maharajah Sindhia and letter from Heeru arrived. The contents were you have not done well in proceeding towards the Nerbudda contrary to the pleasure of the Sirkar Now however immediately towards Raghogarh.

Sunday the 14th.—The Nawab wrote letters in answer to Sindhia and Jaggoo Bapoo promising to march immediately on the return of his parties from the Southward towards Raghogarh. He talked with his Jemadars about the forces of Sindhia and the Peshwa with 2 English battalions coming against him and sent letters to Cheetoo and Ranjan and others from himself and the Peerzada, exhorting them to join with him

Monday, the 15th Zeelqad or 2nd December—Fresh letters arrived from Heeroo to hasten the Nawab's march to Raghograh, with promises that immediately on his arrival there, the territory agreed on should be given up to him, besides other advantages of Moolkgiri. With the contents of these letters the Nawab was much pleased.

True extracts

R. JENKINS, Resident

Letter No. 49.—It is only a covering letter to the copies of Akhbars containing the news items about the Pindari Leaders, the Nawab of Bhopal and the Sindhia.

FROM—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

TO—COLONEL CONRAN, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA

Nagpur, the 18th December 1811

I was yesterday honoured with your dispatch of the 12th instant. You will have subsequently received my letters of the 11th, 12th and 13th instant conveying to you all the intelligence in my possession relative to the Pindaries. I have now the pleasure to forward you two papers containing extracts of my latest Akhbars and the substance of a letter from my news-writer in Karim's Camp, dated the 6th instant.

The same as the above to —

- 1 H Russell, Esquire, dated 19th
- 2 M Elphinstone, Esquire, dated 20th
- 3 R Strachey, Esquire, dated 20th
- 4 C T Metcalfe, Esquire, dated 21st

Substance of a letter from my news-writer in Karim's Camp at Khyree, dated Friday the 6th December

A Shooqqu from Sindhia has arrived directing the Nawab to march towards Raghogarh, and letters from Heeroo are continually received to the same effect. Juggoo Bapoo also writes from Turaneh on this subject, and calling upon the Nawab to evacuate Shujawalpore and other places. From this quarter excuses have been hitherto written that the Nawab is waiting for the return of the parties from the Southward. These have now all come in and it remains to be seen what will follow.

I hear that Jeswant Rao Bhau has been sent to this quarter with his forces and that Vazeer Mohammed Khan in obedience to Sindhia's orders had agreed to join Abajee Punt who has three of the Maharaja's Battalions with him. Vazeer Mohammed however pretends friendship for the Nawab Karim and urges him to obey Sindhia's orders, but as a burnt child dreads the fire, Karim

does not think proper to go to Raghogarh. Although the Rajah of Kotta also recommends him to go he evades it by various and contradictory excuses.

Hearing that a force of English Battalions and of the Peshwa's troops are coming against him he is cultivating the friendship of Cheetoo and Dost Mohammed. Cheetoo makes the release of Udhajee Naik as his excuse and in consequence it is proposed to send him to Cheetoo with Namdar Khan. Dost Mohammed excuses himself on account of the distance. Further the Zamindars of Oomutwarree Shujawalpore and the other Mahals in the Nawab's possession are in a state of disturbance plundering and robbing night and day.

I have heard from some of the Pindaries who have come that on their return (after setting fire to some houses in Nagpur which they did on hearing of Udhajee Naik's seizure and plundering Pownie, etc.) by the route of Asseergarh the Killadar of that place Jeswant Rao Lar occupied the different Ghats with his Infantry and killed and wounded a great many of the Pindaries. He also made a night attack upon them which obliged them to leave behind many horses and tattoos laden with plunder.

It is now in contemplation to send the finest horses and men towards the Army of Juggoo Bapoo. It is probable that in a few days they will go on a plundering expedition.

This day (the 6th December) the Nawab had a conference with Udhajee Naik in concert with Nathoo Bhau and Namdar Khan. It is said that Udhajee Naik and Nathoo Bhau will be dispatched to Seetoo's Camp and that from thence Nathoo Bhau will accompany the Naik to Nagpur to negotiate.

A true translation.

R. JENKINS Resident at Nagpur

Extracts from Akhbars from the Camp of Karim

Tuesday the 3rd December.—The Nawab today forwarded copies of Rajah Raghoojee's intercepted letters for the inspection of Maharaja Sindhia and wrote to Meeroo promising to march to Raghogarh when the plundering parties should arrive. Shaikh Bahadur Kadir Bux's manager represented that Rajah Raghoojee had stopped the Ghats of the Nerbudda and the Pindaries would probably be molested in recrossing. The Nawab immediately sent to tell Udhajee Naik that if any molestation was given his head should be immediately struck off and directed him to write immediately to forbid it in the name of the Rajah which Udhajee accordingly did.

Letters arrived from Cheetoo addressed to the Peerzada, to this purport. According to your desire I shall attend you accompanied by Raja Mohammed Khan (Runjan), Imam Bux Sahib Khan Ghazee Khan and Lakhoo Jemadar. News arrived that Juggoo

Bapoo had arrived near Sohangung The Nawab was much alarmed at this intelligence Qadir Bux had sent all his family off towards Bhopal but was persuaded to recall them

In the evening Girwar Singh and Mr Ball, arrived from Shujawalpur They represented that all the Zamindars were in revolt, and that Jotiba Maunia had gone to Juggoo Bapoo's camp. The Nawab was very angry on hearing these things

Wednesday, 4th December —The Nawab wrote letters to Cheetoo, Runjan and others and sent them with the Peeizadah to their camp The Nawab then had a conference with Sindhia's Vakeel, whom he amused with professions of obedience and attachment He then spoke of Cheetoo and said that if he would not come he would chastise him in the first instance Qadir Bux applied for some money threatening to march away The Nawab visited him and pacified him with a Tunkha for six thousand rupees on Sohungange and Bursia

Thursday, 5th December —Letters arrived from Dost Mohammed saying he could not come just now and from Cheetoo, promising to come as soon as Udhajee Naik should arrive in his Camp Sindhia's Vakeel represented that it was of no use to detain Udhajee Naik, and that hitherto Vakeels had been respected whether in peace or war, that the Nawab should therefore dismiss Udhajee-Naik

The Nawab then sent for Mr Ball and Girwar Singh and told them that they had not done well in writing reasonable letters to Juggoo Bapoo They both took oaths that they never had and never would be guilty of treason As the whole was false, the Nawab dismissed them again to Shujawalpore Qadir Bux Burrun's son had written to Sindhia who through his Vakeel directed him to join Juggoo Bapoo without apprehension Qadir Bux has not visited the Nawab for some days being discontented about money matters

Friday, 6th December —Ghazeeooddeen Khan, Nathoo Sydoo, Sahib Khan and other Pindaries who went to Nagpur paid their respects to the Nawab and represented their exploits of plundering and burning at Nagpur The Nawab sent for Udhajee Naik and asked him about these things, comforting him about his dismissal In Ghazeeooddeen Khan's quarters, are an elephant, many camels, horses, tattoos, bullocks and some children which have been carried off in this expedition

The Jemadars represented what they had suffered from Jeswant Rao Lar, at the Ghats of Asseer and they said would revenge it Cheetoo's Pindarrahs have also got a great deal of plunder

True extracts and translations

R JENKINS, Resident at Nagpur

Letter No 50—Jenkins reports that the movements of Jalna Subsidiary force towards Amraoti had resulted in the inactivity of the Pindaries. If operations are directed against them by the Sindhia's forces, the Pindaries will further be embarrassed. But he says "I still think that Sindhia would have been happy to hear of Karim at the gates of Nagpur"

FROM—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur the 29th December 1811

I have the honour to transmit for your information the copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Colonel Conran.

The present inactivity of the Pindaries as I have no doubt to be attributed to the advance of the Jalna force towards Amraoti and that of the Corps under Major Custance to Nagpur of which from their good intelligence the Pindary Chiefs must have received the earliest notice. The force sent against Karim by Sindhia do not seem to be yet advanced far on this side of Ujjain but in the progress of their operations it was to have been expected that whether or not Karim could face them in the field he would endeavour to escape all danger of treachery by crossing the Nerbudda as long as he had no apprehension of a British force being so near as to endanger his rear. No opposition on the part of the Rajah of Berar in the state of his military preparations a short time ago could have been expected or rather the fear of having his capital attacked must have obliged His Highness to grant to the Pindary Chief any thing he might have demanded for his security. Hoshangabad and Seoni were indeed actually required by Karim the former as a place of refuge for his family in lieu of Gurrah Mandla if the Rajah would not cede that province.

If any vigorous operations on the part of Sindhia could be reasonably expected it might be said that the Pindaries would be too much employed in securing themselves and families, to think of plundering incursions even if they were driven across the Nerbudda but a Pindary must either plunder or starve, and Sindhia's operations must be much more decided than in all probability they will ever be, to prevent large detachments of the Pindaries from securing the countries within their reach for the means of their subsistence. I still think too that Sindhia would have been happy to hear of Karim at the gates of Nagpur

From the time which has been gained, the Rajah is now much better prepared than he was to oppose Karim, and to reject his insolent demands without any great fear of the consequences and this favourable posture of his affairs is the result, in my opinion exclusively of our precautionary measures for nothing indicates that the Pindaries have yet been seriously pressed by Sindhia's forces. The last accounts of Karim's Camp mentioned that he was preparing to harass the forces and until now the reports from the

Nerbudda were such as to lead to an expectation of a new and formidable incursion to the southward perhaps under Karim himself

Karim may now if endangered in Bhopal towards which place he is said to have moved, retire in the direction of Garrah Mandla, at present quite uncovered, but I think that he will not venture to cross the Nerbudda however pressed, although plundering parties may still infest the countries to the south of that river, not immediately protected by our forces

I shall forward copies of this dispatch to the Chief Secretary for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General and to the Resident at Poona

NIZAM'S AFFAIRS

Letter No 1.—The enclosure contains the following information—

- (i) That Ismail Yar Jang had resigned the office of Moonshi and Hussain Ali Khan had been appointed to that post by Meer Allum.
- (ii) That Meer Allum intended to recommend Rajah Govind Buksh to succeed Rajah Mahipat Ram in the Civil authority.
- (iii) That the Minister proposed that a portion of the Subsidiary force be permanently stationed at Basim or some other central and convenient place in Berar

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—M ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad, the 6th January 1807

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my address No 27 to the Hon'ble the Governor-General

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR GEORGE HILARO BARLOW
BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HON'BLE SIR,

In obedience to the orders of the Nizam, Ismail Yar Jung waited upon Meer Allum soon after I had quitted the palace and resigned the office of Moonshi to the Dewan which was immediately conferred by Meer Allum on Hussain Ali Khan, better known by the name of Moonshi Ali, a quiet faithful respectable man, of approved survey and honesty and long attached to Meer Allum

2 Soon afterwards Meer Allum received messages of congratulation from Shemsul Omiah, Umzadul Moolk and the other leaders of the Pagah party, and the Begums conveyed their blessings to him

3 As soon as the crowd of Mootesuddies and others, who came to congratulate the Minister on the fortunate result of the negotiation had subsided, I called upon him for the purpose of consulting him on the execution of the different measures which His Highness the Nizam had pledged himself to adopt

4 The Minister commenced by paying me many flattering compliments upon the successful termination of my exertions and assuring me that the measures which had been by the Nizam's signature would be acceptable to all the persons of credit rank and respectability about the Court but extremely to the community at large. He said that the Begums were particularly pleased at the considerate and moderate manner in which I had conducted all my proceedings and that in general the real views and objects of the British Government had been unequivocally demonstrated both by the remonstrances which you addressed to the Nizam and by the manner in which those remonstrances had been employed

5 The Minister stated that he intended to recommend Rajah Govind Buksh to succeed Rajah Mahipat Ram in the Civil authority over the province of Berar but that he was at a loss whom to appoint to the principal command over the troops. That the only person whom he should wish to select for that important trust from amongst the Omrahs at Hyderabad would be reluctant to quit the Court and the presence, and were by no means possessed of military talent or experience. I suggested the Nawab Salabat Khan as a person of great respectability and whose integrity and loyalty had been so lately proved. But the Minister repeated all the objections which I myself entertain to the nomination of Salabat Khan by showing the elevation of the Chieftain would excite the jealousy of the other Chieftains in Berar whose rank and whose ostensible pretensions, were equal to those of Salabat Khan. Under this difficulty the Minister suggested an arrangement which I have myself long had in contemplation and which I am convinced, after mature reflection to be the best calculated to ensure the tranquility of Berar to protect the frontier of the Nizam's dominions and generally to preserve the of this part of India. I am fully aware of this arrangement is liable to many objections in one part and that it is contrary to the principles laid down by the supreme Government on of the return of the Subsidiary force from Berar. But it may occur to the Government that the circumstances, under which the Minister's proposal is now submitted are different from those upon which the policy of the return to Hyderabad of the whole Subsidiary Force was founded. It is almost certain that no dependance can be placed upon the sincerity of the Nizam's late assurances, or upon his steady adherence to the objective of his alliance. It must be considered that the Minister's life is very precarious and after the experience which we have had of the consequence of getting a Minister appointed by the direct interposition of the influence, it will probably not be thought expedient to try such an experiment a second time. If the present Nizam should appoint a Minister of his own selection of Berar without the constant interposition of direct and offensive influence, we can place no reliance on the disposition of the Nizam himself or of his favourite advisers but if a portion of the Subsidiary force be stationed in Berar and the

remainder of it at Hyderabad, we shall be secured against all the possible consequences of the intrigues of those who are inimical to the alliance, and the combined interests of the two states. The Moosulman Chieftains in Berar who are well disposed towards the British cause and entertain a high respect for the British Nation from having served with our troops and having maintained a friendly intercourse with our officers, will not be gained over to any plan, inimical to the combined interest of the two states, as long as a British force is stationed in Berar, and whilst the Chieftains keep up a correspondence and intercourse with the Commanding Officer of that force, there will be no necessity to appoint a native officer of this Government to the general command of the Nizam's troops, which cannot be done without the efficiency of those troops and producing jealousy and animosity amongst the present Chieftains. A serious difficulty will therefore be avoided, and many advantages gained, by the adoption of the plan which the Minister proposed which I shall now submit to your consideration.

6 The Minister proposed that a portion of the Subsidiary force be permanently stationed at Basim, or some other central and convenient place in Berar, and he begged that this proposal might be specifically mentioned to you as one which he thought best calculated to secure the stability of our interest at this Court. We had a long discussion upon the details of this arrangement of which I shall content myself by laying before you the following result —

1st—The Minister thought that His Highness the Nizam would express no objection to the arrangement, but would readily accede to it.

2nd—In case the arrangement should subject the British Government to any extra expense, the Minister expressed his willingness to defray that expense from the revenues of Berar. Upon this point I shall make the following observations. The stationing of Infantry alone will subject the British Government to no extra expense. As it may be of consequence to keep one of the Regiments of Cavalry in Berar, and as it will be necessary to allow the Europeans of the artillery provisions instead of an equivalent in money or what is technically called wet instead of dry Bhatta, the extra expense of this part of the arrangement may be calculated at about 3,000 rupees per month. It will be proper that the commanding officer should receive some allowance to enable him to maintain an establishment adequate to his station, and that he should be allowed two staff officers—A Brigade Major and Quarter Master of Brigade. This expense may be taken at 2,000 rupees so that the whole extra expense of the plan will not probably be greater than 5,000 rupees per mensem, and the whole of this will not probably be permanent for the Cavalry will meet with abundance of fine forage in Berar, and it is probable that when it is known a Regiment of Cavalry will be permanently stationed in Berar, the

Contractor of Cavalry supplies will be ready to extend his present contract to Berar on the same economical terms on which he has engaged to supply the Cavalry at Hyderabad

3rd.—It would be perfectly understood that the detachment in Berar is not to be employed in settling the country in enforcing the exercise of the Civil authority or in any way contrary to the strict stipulations of Treaty. The detachment in Berar in short would not be subjected to any duties different from those which may be performed by the forces at Hyderabad

4th.—The detachment in Berar would be paid by the Talukdar in Berar and the Commanding Officer would grant the Talukdar bills upon this treasury for the amount of his receipts and the account would be regularly settled each month between the Minister and myself at Hyderabad. This arrangement would avoid all expense and difficulty in negotiating remittances or conveying treasure to the detachment

7 It is now proper that I should offer to your notice in a more regular and connected manner the several advantages which in my opinion and in that of the Minister may be expected to proceed from the adoption of the proposed plan —

(1) It would prevent the necessity and the difficulty of appointing an officer of this Government to the General Command of the Nizam's troops. The whole of the Nizam's Contingent that his troops stationed in Berar for the protection of that important province, might be divided into three separate bodies to be stationed—one near Ellichpore, another towards the Western Ghats leading into Khandesh and a third in some central place, perhaps Basim to be attached to the Talukdar of the province. By this disposition of the troops the entrance to Berar from the Eastern and Western Passes will be defended and secured and officers of respectability and experience such as Salabat Khan might be invested with the separate command of the advanced bodies and another Sardar would be selected by Raja Govind Buksh for the command of the division attached to his person. These Chieftains as long as they looked up to the Commanding Officer of the British Detachment, would feel no personal jealousy of each other. They might correspond with the Commanding Officer respecting the disposal and station of the detachments under their respective commands and a system of connected defence would be maintained with as much accuracy as can be expected from the natural constitution of a Native army

(2) The quota of troops stationed in Berar which are almost the only efficient troops that can be spared for general service, constitute the Nizam's contingent on that portion which in future will be immediately attached to the British Subsidiary force. It will therefore materially assist the of all future co-operation that the Chieftains of those troops who are designed to act with us should maintain a friendly correspondence and intercourse. Officers that they should know and respect each

other, and that the Chieftains should be accustomed to a degree of regularity, control and subordination without which they become not only useless but most cumbrous allies

(3) The state of the Nizam's infantry in Berar demands the most serious attention of the British Government. The several Corps which are under the immediate and personal command of Mahipat Ram are the remains of Mons Rayonds party. These Corps are dressed in the French costumes, they are disciplined in the French Words of Command, they are naturally attached to the French cause and this disposition has been designedly encouraged by Raja Mahipat Ram. An English Officer of the name of Drapper was desirous to introduce the English Exercise and Words of Command but the sepoys peremptorily refused to comply with his order and the officer was obliged to concede the point to prevent a disturbance. The person who really commands these Corps and has considerable influence over them, is one Clementi a Spanish, faithfully attached to Mahipat Ram and notoriously hostile to the British cause. This man calls himself a Portugueze and had sufficient interest at Goa to procure the appointment of an Ambassador from the Portugueze Government to the Soubahadar of the Deccan. Their credentials were seized by the late Resident and are still in my possession. But the man is really Spaniard. There are many Europeans and men of different nations and character who are distributed amongst the several Corps in Berar, and are most of them under the control and influence of the Spaniard Clementi. These subordinate officers have gradually crept into the Nizam's service without having excited attention, but it is of much consequence that their number, their nation and their characters should be ascertained, and that such as are liable to suspicion should be dismissed from the service and sent out of the country. In the event of a peace between Great Britain and France, the state of the remains of the French Corps, and character and disposition of their Commanding Officers, must be regarded with a jealous and vigilant eye. Every effort of the British Resident will be required to prevent the admission of secret emissaries who may be employed in attaching the Corps of infantry of the Nizam's service to the interests and cause of the French Nation. I have therefore determined to procure a list of all the Europeans, or sons of Europeans, at present in the Nizam's service, and to make enquiry of their nation, characters and sentiments, and I propose, as a future general regulation, that such Europeans, as are worthy of being retained in the service, shall receive commissions from this Government, countersigned by myself, that a list of them shall be kept at the Residency describing their rank, station and period of service and that all Europeans or half cast who cannot produce their commission shall be seized and sent out of the country upon the principles above stated. I have judged it proper to require that Clementi and some others shall be dismissed from the service, and Meer Allum has determined to reform the infantry in Berar and place them on a respectable footing.

the command of English officers who are already in the service of this state. To effect this reasonable reform and enable the English officers to create and maintain a proper influence and authority over their respective Corps it will be of much importance that a detachment of British troops should be stationed in Berar by the general influence and example derived from the presence of a British detachment and under the regulations which Meer Allum intends to adopt for the regular payment clothing and equipment of the Corps in Berar it may be expected that those Corps will gradually attain to a degree of discipline and subordination which may render them useful and creditable in any future war.

(4) The Commanding Officer of the detachment will not only have the means of procuring abundant intelligence of all movements near the frontier but he will be enabled to judge of the degree of credit which ought to be attached to such information

Letter No 2.—The enclosure conveys the information that the march of the British detachment had alone prevented Rajah Mahipat Ram from measures of hostility and that he had handed over the charge of the affairs of Berar to Sital Das. He had however sent one Gossain Shambhu Bharty to the Resident conveying his loyal intentions to the British and the Nizam and requesting for an assurance for the safety of his person honour and property

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad the 26th January 1807

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last address No 3 to the Hon ble the Governor-General.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW BART GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HON'BLE SIR

I have already had the honour of expressing my sentiments respecting the beneficial consequences which might be expected from the measure of detaching a British force to Berar for the purpose of ensuring the peaceable retreat of Rajah Mahipat Ram and the immediate and tranquil succession of Rajah Govind Bulah.

2. The advices which I had received from the province of Berar have confirmed the policy of that measure, and leave no doubt in my mind that the march of the British detachment has

alone prevented Rajah Mahipat Ram from pursuing a system of measures, which though they might not have amounted to positive hostility would have produced serious inconvenience to this Government, and might have left the object of the British Government in a dubious state of accomplishment, if absolute force had not been employed to effect them. Every unpleasant extremity however has been happily avoided, and I have every expectation of being able shortly to report to you that Rajah Govind Baksh has peaceably established his authority over the whole of Berar.

3 As soon as the intelligence of the new arrangement reached Basim, Rajah Mahipat Ram assembled all his friends and adherents, and much time was spent in deliberating upon the nature of the measures which ought to be pursued by them. At length it was given out by Rajah Mahipat Ram that His Highness had required his immediate attendance at Hyderabad with the largest body of troops which could be assembled at the instant, secret orders were therefore issued to such of the Military Chieftains as were at Basim or in its neighbourhood to collect their several quotas, and be prepared to accompany the Rajah to the Capital. It would appear that only few persons evinced a disposition to pay an immediate obedience to those orders. The greater number were willingly to observe the issue of events at the Capital before they complied with the Injunctions which proceeded from the dubious authority of Rajah Mahipat Ram. It is reported that Buksh Ghulam Haidar Khan on whose attachment it is natural to suppose that Rajah placed the greatest reliance, replied that he was the servant of the Government and not of Mahipat Ram, and that he would obey only those orders which he was convinced proceeded from their common Sovereign. Although I have reason to believe that Ghulam Haidar Khan did make a reply of the nature which I have described, still I am disposed to conclude that it was not sent to Mahipat Ram, until it was previously ascertained that a British detachment would accompany Rajah Govind Buksh to Berar. The knowledge of this circumstance indeed determined the conduct of all the Military Chieftains, but until it was clearly ascertained I have good ground for supposing that most of them returned evasive answers to the orders which had been issued to them.

4 I understand that Rajah Mahipat Ram himself though considerably alarmed, continued to manifest no change of language or conduct until he found that the march of the British detachment was publicly known and that his influence over the troops had in consequence entirely ceased. Until that period he did not show any disposition to obey the orders of the Nizam, by delivering over the temporary charge of the province to Sital Dass, but after the intelligence of the march of the British detachment he seems to have abandoned all design of opposing the succession of Govind Buksh, and wrote to Sital Das declaring his anxiety to resign his station for the purpose of returning to Hyderabad.

5 After he had come to the resolution of peaceably resigning his office it would appear that he for a short time entertained the design of escaping from the Nizam's territories with the treasure that he had collected in Berar. It is certain that he packed up his treasure amounting it is said to twenty five lacks of rupees, and that it was placed under the custody of a person who made a march towards Nagpur. But he shortly after changed his intention and the person who had left Basim with the treasure, was ordered to return to the place. The relinquishment of this and his other designs may partly be attributed to the advice of his elder brother Amrut Ram who resides at Hyderabad and who wrote a letter to the Rajah entreating him to yield a ready compliance to the orders of the Government as the only means of securing to himself and to his family whatever was left to them. But the circumstance of the Rajah's family being in the City of Hyderabad was perhaps the most powerful restraint on his future actions as either his hostility or his flight might have exposed his family to indignity and distress.

6. I must interrupt the continuity of this subject by stating that the Ghosain Shambhoo Bharty whose case I had the honour of submitting through the Secretary to your consideration had been a short time ago reinstated in some family possessions near Ellichpore by the Minister and was at Basim travelling towards his estates when Rajah Mahipat Ram received his orders of dismissal. As this poor man was known to have been patronized by me, he was treated with great neglect by Mahipat Ram on his first arrival at Basim. But when the Rajah had determined to comply with the orders of Government he sent for the Gosain and entreated him to convey a letter to me with the utmost dispatch. After some difficulty the Gosain was prevailed upon to undertake the commission and the Rajah entrusted him with a letter and a long message to me. This Gosain who is equally celebrated for integrity and activity reached the Residency on the third day after his departure from Basim.

7 The Gosain gave me a detailed and faithful account of every thing that had passed since his arrival at Basim and his account corroborated the intelligence which had been received both by the Minister and myself. The Gosain who has had much experience of the native character and seems to possess great sagacity assured me that the peaceable resignation of Mahipat Ram was to be entirely attributed to the march of the British detachment.

8 After the Gosain had delivered to me Rajah Mahipat Ram's letter (of which I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation) he conveyed to me a long confidential message from the Rajah. The first part of the message consisted of the most solemn protestation of the Rajah's innocence and of his unalterable attachment to the interests of the British Government. The

second part of the message consisted of the most earnest entreaties to be permitted to return to Hyderabad and expressed his willingness to enter into any conditions which I might think proper to prescribe as a guarantee for his future good conduct. He offered to place a part of his family in the English camp, to permit me to station a guard and confidential intelligence over his person, to submit himself entirely to my will and pleasure to effect my object that the British Government might wish to accomplish at this Court, and to devote himself in future to the interests of the British Government. The message by imploring my mercy, by entreating me to permit him throw himself at my feet and by offering me a present of ten lacks of rupees

9 I have the honour to submit to your notice a copy and translation of the reply which I thought proper to give the letter of Mahipat Ram

10 In reply to the message I desired the Gosain to state to the Rajah that I was much concerned at the circumstances which had subjected the Rajah to so humiliating a condition, but that I should have considered myself culpable of the most gross abandonment of my public duty if I had neglected to represent to the Governor-General the dangerous conduct of the Rajah. That the Governor-General in Council after a temperate and deliberate review of all the circumstances to His Highness to which His Highness had been pleased to listen with all the attention due to the disinterested advice of the best friends. That in consequence of those remonstrances, His Highness had freely consented to dismiss Ismail Yar Jung from the presence, and Rajah Mahipat Ram from his station in Berar. That a successor to that station had been appointed by the Nizam at the recommendation of the Prime Minister of the Government, and that a Detachment of British troops had proceeded to Berar for the purpose of securing the undisturbed establishment of that successor's authority. With respect to his solemn protestations of innocence, the Rajah must be too well acquainted with the principles which regard the conduct of the British Government not to know that the British Government never to act from motives of personal animosity, that it never acted without possessing the most satisfactory grounds of decision, and that it never would have interposed its direct influence to effect the removal of public affair from his station under another Government without being first convinced of the necessity of such a measure to the security of its rights and interests. That after what had happened it was impossible for me to listen to the Rajah's proposal to come to the capital and that I would use every means in my power to defeat such an intention. I therefore advised the Rajah to obey with promptitude and cheerfulness the orders of his Government and to lose no time in transferring the charge of Berar to Sital Dass and in proceeding to Saugor. At the same time I could give the Rajah the most

solemn assurances respecting the security of his honour his person, his family and his personal property As to the Rajah's offers to myself they were undeserving of a reply but with respect to his promises to the British Government I begged the Rajah to be assured that every object of the British Government had been accomplished by his removal from Berar and by the friendly disposition expressed by His Highness the Nizam As the Gosain continued to press upon me the important services which the Rajah might have it in his power to render to the British Government I again replied that the British Government had no other object to accomplish but the permanence of the harmony and confidence which had been established and that the British Government was equally indifferent to the friendship and unity of such a man as Mahipat Ram

11. The Gosain certainly executed his commission with the most zealous perseverance, which he honestly confessed to me was owing to a promise which the Rajah made him of a handsome sum of money if he should succeed in procuring a favourable reply to his letter and message. When the Gosain found all his efforts unavailing he received my letter and returned to Basim with the same extraordinary expedition with which he had travelled from that place to Hyderabad

12. Before the arrival of the Gosain Rajah Mahipat Ram had begun to deliver over the charge of Berar to Sital Das and on the receipt of my replies to his message and letter he hastened to complete the transfer He afterwards addressed to me another letter to which I replied and I have the honour to enclose copies and translation of both those papers

13. After the arrival of the Gosain at Basim Rajah Mahipat Ram pitched his tents to the southward of Basim and as soon as he had completed the formal transfer of the districts to the authority of Sital Das he made a march toward the Godavery It appeared to be his intention to wait at Khan a town on the banks of the river until he should try the effect of another representation to me. A message nearly similar to that which was brought to me by the Gosain was conveyed to me by Amrut Ram but my reply only repeated what I had before stated to the Gosain, and on the receipt of my reply to his second letter he crossed the Godavery and marched towards Saugor

14. You will observe that in the replies which I gave both to his messages and letters, I conveyed the assurances which the Nizam wished me to make to him at the same time that I resisted in the most unequivocal terms his proposal of returning to Hyderabad under any conditions whatever

15. The Rajah likewise addressed arzees to the Minister and in his replies to those arzees, the Minister gave him the most satisfactory assurances of the security of his honour person and property The Minister has likewise consented to his maintaining a

Garrison of five hundred infantry for the defence of the fortress of Saugor, but refused to comply with the Rajah's wish of being allowed a party of two hundred horse in addition to the Garrison

16 It is difficult to decide whether the Rajah be sincere in his wish to relinquish public life and retire to Benares, Tirupathy or Jagannath. It is possible that this intention may merely proceed from those feelings of disappointment and melancholy which usually follow an unexpected reverse of fortune. But in the event of the Rajah's continuing to express a desire of returning to some place of religious worship on the Company's dominions, I beg leave to enquire whether I may be permitted to comply with his wish. It is probable that the Minister will not be disposed to consent to the Rajah's leaving their dominions, until he shall have adjusted his public accounts, but after that has been done I rather think he would wish to encourage the Rajah's intention of retiring to Benares

17 His Highness has already manifested some eagerness to obtain possession of the treasure which it is supposed that Mahipat Ram has collected during his administration in Berar, and sent a message, on which that intention was rather insinuated than expressed, to the Minister. To this message the Minister replied that it was his intention to examine the public accounts of Mahipat and to oblige him to pay into the treasure any balance which should be fairly substantiated against him, but he advised the Nizam to forbear for seizing whatever should be proved to be the personal property of the Rajah. This circumstance affords a striking trait of the extraordinary character of the Nizam, whose feelings of personal attachment seem to be entirely regulated by the hopes of pecuniary gain

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

T SYDENHAM,

Resident at Hyderabad

Hyderabad

The 2nd January 1807

Letter No 3 —In the enclosure, dated the 25th May, Sydenham reports that the Emperor had conferred on the Nizam his father's titles. The Nizam was very happy to receive the Mughal Emperor's Firman from his hands. The Nizam had conferred a Jagir on the grandson of Meer Allum on

this occasion. Sydenham and Meer Allum had arranged that Colonel Doveton should proceed to Basim to reorganize the Infantry in Berar

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad the 28th May 1807

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last address No 37 to the Honble the Governor General.

TO—THE HONBLE SIR GEORGE H. BARLOW BART
GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

HONBLE SIR,

I had the honour to receive from the Persian Department the Shokah from His Majesty the King of Delhi to His Highness the Nizam in which His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon His Highness the same titles that were enjoyed by the late Nizam.

2 I likewise received from the Political Secretary an extract from a dispatch of the Resident at Delhi under date the 13th April stating the circumstances which led to a compliment so flattering and so acceptable to the feelings of His Highness the Nizam.

3. I lost no time in communicating such pleasing intelligence to His Highness and I requested that a day might be fixed for His Highness to receive from my hands the letter of the King of Delhi.

4. As soon as a lucky day and hour could be fixed upon by the Astrologers of the Court, I received an intimation from His Highness, and early on the morning of the 23rd I proceeded to His Highness's tents at the garden of Langumpilly

5 After waiting a few minutes His Highness's approach was announced when I advanced and delivered His Majesty's Shoka, which His Highness received with the usual demonstrations of respect.

6. As soon as we were seated I communicated to His Highness the circumstances that are stated in the extract of the letter from the Resident at Delhi and paid His Highness an appropriate compliment on his wishes having been so completely anticipated in consequence of the high respect and esteem in which His Highness and his illustrious family were held at the Court of Delhi His Highness appeared to receive much pleasure from this communication and replied that he attributed the unsolicited accomplishment of his wishes entirely to the friendship and kind offices of the Governor-General.

7 After this had passed His Highness directed that his Majesty's letter should be opened and publicly read in Durbar. During the reading of the letter the gratification, which his Highness felt at the receipt of the Title and the terms in which they were conveyed, was very evident on his countenance. When this ceremony was finished I congratulated His Highness on the happy event, and this was immediately followed by the formal congratulations of the Minister. The Minister then rose and presented His Nazar, and His Highness was fully employed for the next half hour in receiving the Nazars, of the Omrahs and different Officers who were present in Durbar.

8 After the crowd had subsided I addressed the Nizam, and communicated to His Highness the substance of the Persian Secretary's letter of the 5th of May. I told His Highness that the box containing the Arzdasht and Nazar had reached Calcutta in safety but that the Governor-General in consideration of the principal object of that Arzdasht having been already obtained had supposed that His Highness might wish to substitute another Arzdasht, in its room, and under this impression judged it proper to suspend the transmission of the late Arzdasht until I had consulted His Highness's wishes on the subject. His Highness appeared much delighted at your kind attention and said he should certainly wish to substitute another Arzdasht in the place of the one lately transmitted, to Calcutta, and would alter the expression of his anxiety to receive the Titles which were enjoyed by his late father into an expression of his gratitude for the distinguished honour which had been conferred upon him. His Highness requested that I would obtain from Calcutta the late Arzdasht, and he directed the Minister and Ihtusamool Moolk to prepare another in its place. He also directed that a new set of seals should be immediately engraved, and should be employed on the Arzdasht which was about to be written to the King of Delhi.

9 His Highness afterwards talked with great vivacity on many general topics and I left him in the highest spirit imaginable.

10 As custom did not allow of my presenting a Nuzar and as the crowd at the Durbar prevented my offering a formal congratulation to His Highness, I judged it proper to address a letter of congratulation to His Highness, which I understand was very favourably received and extremely gratifying to His Highness. I have the honour to forward a copy and translation of that letter.

11 The following day His Highness returned to the city with rather more than usual pomp and carried the King of Delhi's letter in his turband. On entering the city His Highness by his own directions was saluted with twenty-one guns.

12. On the same day I received a visit from the Minister who took the Residency in his way from the encampment at Singumpally to the city. This Minister was in high spirit from the circumstance of an extensive personal Jagheer having been that morning conferred by His Highness upon his grandson the young Abdullah the son of Moonirul Moolk. The Sir has long been solicitous to procure a permanent provision for his grandson well knowing how uncertain the transmission of personal property to his heirs would be under such a Government as that of Hyderabad. The Meer thought the present a favourable opportunity to express this wish to the Nizam who with great liberality and cheerfulness immediately conferred upon the young Abdullah the extensive Jagheer of Coopul. That district (of which the annual revenue may be computed at three lacks of rupees) was formerly in the possession of Meer Allum but he was deprived of it in disgrace by the late Minister. The restoration of that particular Jagheer to the family of Meer Allum is therefore a flattering compliment as well as a substantial gift to the family.

13. While Meer Allum remained with me I pressed him to decide upon the final arrangements for the reforms of the Infantry in Berar as Lieutenant Colonel Doveton (who has lately arrived and was present at the meeting) would be prepared to proceed to Basim as soon as the Minister had made up his mind on the subject. The Minister promised to do what I advised and appeared to be anxious for Colonel Doveton's departure as he conceived that the reform of the Infantry in Berar would depend very much on the personal exertion of that officer.

14. I have the honour to acquaint you that I have transmitted to the Resident at Poona a copy of the statement with which I have been furnished by this Government of the amount of revenue which has been collected from the places lately transferred to the possession of Jeswant Rao Holkar and that I have likewise supplied the Resident at Poona with an order from the Minister to Rajah Govind Buksh for the restitution of the pergunnah of Umber to the Agent of Holkar which will complete as far as this Government is concerned the performance of the conditional stipulations of the late Treaty with that Chieftain.

15. I take this opportunity of reporting to you the return of Mr Henry Russell to the duties of his station at Hyderabad.

I have the honour to be,
Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

T SYDENHAM

Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad

The 25th May 1807

Substance of a letter from Captain Sydenham Resident at Hyderabad, to His Highness the Soubahdar written on the 23rd of May 1807

The gratifying intimation which your Highness has received of His Majesty the King of Delhi having been pleased to confer on your Highness, the Titles by which your illustrious father was distinguished, has afforded the greatest pleasure to all those friends, who are sincerely interested in the welfare and prosperity of your Highness, and to me especially, whose attachment to your Highness, is unquestionable and who are occupied in advancing the dignity of your Highness, it has afforded a degree of satisfaction which I feel myself unable to describe

The forms and customs of my country have precluded me from the honour of presenting to your Highness a Nazar on this occasion, and the crowd by which your Highness was surrounded during the time of my audience this morning deprived me of the opportunity of personally conveying to your Highness my congratulations on this happy event in such terms as the feelings of my heart suggested. I have therefore gratified myself by addressing the letter to your Highness. May the Almighty Disposer of Events render the high and illustrious Titles auspicious to your Highness, may the General Rays of the Royal Favour be incessantly towards your Highness, may you Long continue to dignify and adorn the Musnud of Your Ancestors

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
Second Assistant

Letter No 4 —In the enclosure which is a copy of the letter addressed to the Governor-General by Sydenham, dated the 16th June, the latter mentions how the name of the British Cantonment near Hussain Sagar was changed into Secunderabad

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD
TO—R JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad, the 16th June 1807.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my last official address No 38 to the Hon ble the Governor-General

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HON'BLE SIR,

As soon as the Arzdashts proposed to be substituted in the place of those formerly transmitted to Calcutta were prepared and the new seals of state had been approved of by His Highness I was invited to the Durbar for the purpose of receiving the Arzdashts from the hands of His Highness

2 His Highness was in a cheerful temper, and repeated the expression of his obligation to you for the unsolicited accomplishment of his wishes. I have showed his Highness the two papers of the Delhi coinage which I had received from Mr Secretary Edmonstone and explained to His Highness the reasons which had induced the Governor-General in Council to resolve not to change the former dies of the coinage in the British Territories.

3 His Highness afterwards delivered to me two Arzdashis for His Majesty the King of Delhi: one of them being a letter of condolence on the death of the late King and the other a letter of congratulation on his present Majesty's auspicious accession to the throne, and of gratitude for the distinguished honours lately conferred upon His Highness. The last of the two letters is accompanied by two Nuzars each of one hundred and one Gold Mohars: one of the Nuzars referring to His Majesty's accession and the other to His Highness's late receipt of his father's titles.

4 His Highness then gave me a letter of thanks addressed by him to yourself which was accompanied by another from the Minister upon the same subject.

5 His Highness told me that he had long been reflecting upon an appropriate name to be conferred upon the British cantonments near Hussain Sagar and had at length determined that they should be distinguished by name of Secunderabad which appellation he had selected from Secunder being his family title, and which he therefore thought best adapted to demonstrate his great regard and friendship for the British nation.

6 I made a suitable reply to this flattering communication and assured His Highness how much the British Subsidiary force would be honoured by its cantonments being distinguished by an appellation taken from the family title of His Highness. After a few minutes had elapsed His Highness gave to me a letter in reply to the late letter of congratulation which I had addressed to him. The last paragraph of His Highness's letter expressed his desire that the cantonments might hereafter be called by the name Secunderabad. I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of His Highness's letter to me.

7 I lost no time in communicating to Colonel Montresor the honour which His Highness had been pleased to confer on the British Cantonment and I conveyed similar intelligence to the Government of Fort St. George.

8 As Lieut Colonel Doveton had accompanied me to the Durbar I availed myself of the occasion to present him to His Highness as the Officer who had been particularly appointed to the Command of the British detachment in the Province of Berar and from whose talents and experience I expected that Rajah Govind Buksh would derive the most useful assistance.

9 I took this opportunity of to His Highness the substance of the extract from Mr Mercer's letter dated the 16th April, relative to the confinement of the two principal Chieftains of the Pindarahs, and expressed my hope that the late measures adopted by Dowlat Rao Sindhia would prevent the Pindarrahs from repeating their outrages in the province of Berar, at the same time I observed that the repose and security of his Highness's territories ought to be made to depend upon the efficiency, vigilance and activity of His Highness and I made no doubt that His Highness's territories would in future be secured from the irregular depredations of the Pindaries by the judicious arrangements of Govind Buksh assisted and advised by Lieutenant Colonel Doveton

10 His Highness did us the honour of conferring jewels on Mr Henry Russell and myself as a compliment to the British Government for having procured for His Highness the titles enjoyed by his father His Highness also gave jewels to my principal Moonshi, Mowlvee Ebn. Ali for having read in public Durbar the Sahokah from the King of Delhi which contained the titles His Highness likewise conferred jewels on Lieut Col Doveton on the occasion of that Officer's approaching departure to his station in the province of Berar

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad :

T SYDENHAM,

The 16th June 1807.

Resident at Hyderabad

Translation of an Enayatnama from His Highness the Nizam to Capt Sydenham, Resident at Hyderabad (Received on June 2, 1807)

I have been much gratified by the receipt of a letter from you congratulating me on the occasion of the titles that were enjoyed by my father having been conferred on me and stating that the customs of your country had precluded you from presenting me with a Nuzzar

The unsolicited attainment of this honour must be ascribed to the happy effort of my alliance with the Hon'ble Company, to the kindness and regard of the Governor-General, and to exertions which have been made by you whose attachment to me is unquestionable, and the gratification which has been experienced by all those who are interested in my welfare has therefore been proportionably great The expression "O Zephyr of the morning all this hath been produced by thee" is justly applicable to you, who are so intent on promoting the advantage of my Government,

as every country has its peculiar customs there is no doubt that in England it is not usual to present Nuzzars. But these are merely the external characters which are used to express sincerity and attachment and when therefore substantial proofs are afforded all forms and customs may be rejected as superfluous. You are constantly and assiduously accused in promoting the interests of this State and there can therefore be no doubt that you will exert yourself in the attainment of every object that may be beneficial to it may be Almighty render this valuable blessing auspicious to all my friends and especially to you whose attachment to me is indubitable.

The Cantonment of the Subsidiary force having by the favour of God been very populous it is necessary that it should be distinguished by a name and in consideration of the intimate connection that exists between the two states I therefore desire that it may henceforth receive appellation of Secunderabad

A true translation

HENRY RUSSELL,

Second Assistant.

Approval of the Governor-General that Hussain Nagar be named Secunderabad

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of that note.

Translation of a note from Captain Sydenham Resident at Hyderabad to Meer Allum dated August 16th 1807

The Hon^{ble} the Governor-General had derived great satisfaction from His Highness the Soubahdar having been pleased in consideration of the perfect intimacy between the two states, to distinguish the British Cantonment near the Hussain Nagar by the appellation of Secunderabad a circumstance which affords a strong proof of his Highness's attachment to the British Government

The Governor-General has also been very much gratified to hear that His Highness has been graciously pleased to confer the fort and districts of Kopul as a personal Jagheer on your grandson Syed Abdullah Khan Bahadur

A true translation and copy

HENRY RUSSELL,

First Assistant.

Letter No 5—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter addressed to Jenkins, dated 30th December. In this enclosure Sydenham reports to the Governor-General what mischief Rajah Mahipat Ram had been creating in Sholapur. He had instigated Inkuppa Naik to expel by force, Timuppa the Diwan of Rajah Ped Naik of Sholapur and usurp the Diwanees for himself (Inkuppa Naik) Raja Mahipat Ram had also misappropriated a part of the tribute that Raja Pid Naik was to pay to the Nizam

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hyderabad, the 22nd December 1807

I have for some time past, been desirous to lay before your Lordship, a detailed and connected account of the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram in establishing his influence over the person and possessions of the Rajah of Sholapore, but the measures of Mahipat Ram were concerted and executed with so much secrecy and art, that it was impossible at first to ascertain what share he actually took in the event that lately happened at Sholapore, or what were the nature and extent of his connection with Inkuppa Naik, the person who ostensibly directed those transactions. Indeed I have so often been compelled to exhibit and comment upon the character and conduct of Mahipat Ram, that I feel some degree of reluctance to force them again upon the notice of Government. I could have wished, though I scarcely expected, that his removal from station and his banishment to Sagar would impose some restraint on his future proceedings and would convince him of the danger of disturbing the repose of this Government.

2 My knowledge of the character and views of Rajah Mahipat Ram has induced me to watch his proceedings with unremitting vigilance, and without being able to discover the nature of his correspondence, I have ascertained that since the period of his arrival at Sagar he has maintained a constant and clandestine intercourse with his friends in this city, with several of the military commanders in Berar, and with persons at Aurangabad, Poona and Nagpur. Both Rajah Govind Buksh and Lieut Colonel Doveton have repeatedly complained of the pernicious effects of a secret influence, which is continually exerted against the operation of the several measures, that have been adopted for the improvement of the condition of Berar and the reform of the Military establishment in that province. They both appear with much reason to ascribe this counteracting influence to the intrigues of Mahipat Ram, and it is certain that the commanders who have in some instances manifested a most wanton inattention and in others a most wilful disobedience to the suggestions of Colonel Doveton and the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh are precisely those persons with whom it is notorious that Mahipat Ram maintains a constant correspondence.

3 I have often advised the Minister to check the correspondence of Mahipat Ram by insisting on his not receiving or dispatching any letters without the previous inspection of the Agent to be placed for that express purpose near the person of Mahipat Ram but the Minister is so desirous of cultivating the good will of the Nizam and so reluctant to take any step that might afford to His Highness the slightest ground of offence that he has permitted this correspondence to be carried on without pretending to be acquainted with it

4. I should imagine that the principal objects of this correspondence were to maintain during his banishment a portion of that extensive influence which he possessed while in power and if possible impede the operation of the Ministers measures for the regulation of the country. If it were possible for him to render the Ministers measures glaringly deficient he would eagerly contrast the effects of them with those magnificent promises of doubling the revenue of the state which he engaged to perform if he were invested with exclusive control over that department of the Government.

5 But the proceedings of Mahipat Ram have not been confined to the agitation of clandestine intrigue without the previous authority or consent either of the Nizam or the Minister he has interfered in the concerns of the Rajah of Sholapore, he forcibly removed the former Dewan Timmuppa and by the same means has placed a person of the name Inkuppa Naik in the entire possession of the person property and government of the Rajah of Sholapore

6. This Inkuppa is a distant relation of Ped Naik, the present Rajah and was compelled a long time ago to leave Sholapore on account of some disagreement with the Rajah's Dewan Timmuppa. He came to Hyderabad and became security on the part of the Rajah for the regular payment of the annual Paishkush up to the Fusly year 1215. After completing this arrangement he returned to the neighbourhood of Sholapur and endeavoured to negotiate a reconciliation with the Rajah and Timmuppa, but failing in this object he collected a small band of freebooters and subsisted them by depredations on the Sholapore Country and by occasional incursions into the territories of His Highness the Peshwa.

7 About this period Rajah Mahipat Ram arrived at Shapur. He was accompanied thither by Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, Nabbu Yar Jung and Sadulla Khan with their respective parties of Horse and Foot, amounting to two thousand men. After their arrival at Shapore the Minister repeatedly directed them to return to their duty in Berar but they paid no attention to the Ministers orders and as they proclaimed their determination to adhere to the fortunes of Rajah Mahipat Ram, they were dismissed from the service of the Nizam.

8 Besides the body of troops, commanded by those persons Rajah Mahipat Ram was accompanied by a party of horse under his own immediate command and by one of the French Battalions of Infantry, part of which had always been stationed at Shapoor and Sagar and part had attended his person in Berar

9 For a long time Rajah Mahipat Ram affected to maintain this force under the plea of providing for the security of his person against the enmity of Mir Allum, and I have every reason to believe that he did and may indeed still, imagine that the Meer would avail himself of the first plausible pretext to seize his person and place him in close confinement But I am well convinced that the Meer never entertained any hostile design against the person of Mahipat Ram and the laudable moderation of his conduct, since Mahipat Ram was disgraced, is a sufficient proof of the absurdity of Mahipat Ram's suspicion

10 Whatever might have been the real design of Mahipat Ram in keeping so large a force about his person, whether it proceeded from fear as he himself pretends, or as others suppose from distant views of ambition, it is certain that their maintenance must have been very burthensome and could not long be supplied from his own resources, even if it be admitted he carried with him from Berar fifty lacks of rupees in treasure and jewels It was therefore necessary that he should devise some means of supporting the parties of his adherents on terms less destructive to his private fortune, and it appears to me that his desire to retain those commanders about his person, without being burthened with the maintenance of them, compelled him to have recourse to the Rajah of Sholapore for the means of subsisting their troops

11 With this view as I imagine, he was desirous to be invested with the management of receiving the annual tribute from Sholapore and although the Nizam did not appear adverse to that proposal the Minister would by no means consent to it He afterwards endeavoured to prevail upon Timmuppa, the Dewan at Sholapore to entertain a small party of Mohammed Raza Khan's troops in the service of the Rajah Timmuppa showed no inclination to accept of this offer and when Mahipat Ram pressed it upon his acceptance Timmuppa peremptorily refused to have any connection with the adherents of Mahipat Ram

12 Being disappointed in his expectation of procuring employment and subsistence for his troops either from this Court or from Timmuppa, Mahipat Ram at length had recourse to Inkuppa Naik, who, as I have before stated, was living in the neighbourhood of Sholapur anxious to establish a footing in Sholapore, and supporting himself by the depredations of a band of freebooters that he had gradually collected about his person

13 Mahipat Ram sent Mohammed Raza Khan to Inkuppa Naik to offer him assistance in placing Inkuppa as the Dewan of Sholapur provide Inkuppa would pay him a certain sum of money to defray arrears due to the troops of Mohammed

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Raza Khan and would afterwards place the parties of that commander and Nabbu Yar Jung in the service of the Rajah of Sholapore. It may be readily supposed that Inkuppa Naik reduced to live on the dangerous and precarious subsistence procured by the depredations of a band of freebooters would cheerfully accede to any proposals which Mahipat Ram might make to him. The engagement was soon concluded. Inkuppa gradually and secretly increased his party by the men whom Mohammed Raza Khan and the other commanders pretended from time to time to dismiss from their service. When his force was thought sufficient to make an attempt on the fort of Sholapur Inkuppa Naik marched towards that place, but after an engagement with the Sholapur troops was compelled to retire. It was then found necessary to afford him more decided assistance and Mohammed Raza Khan and Nabbu Yar Jung having joined Inkuppa Naik another engagement took place which terminated in the expulsion of Timmapa and the establishment of Inkuppa in the entire administration of the affairs of the Rajah of Sholapur.

14. For further particulars of those transactions I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the enclosed papers marked 1 and 2 the former containing a brief account of the engagements which took place and the latter being the substance of a communication from Sher Beg Khan a respectable man who was stationed by this Government near Sholapur to receive the annual tribute from the Rajah.

15. Some months after the transactions I have related took place, I received letters from the Rajah of Sholapur and Inkuppa Naik copies and translations of which I have the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice. From them it would appear that the Rajah was perfectly satisfied with the condition of his affairs and that immediate arrangements would be made to pay the annual tribute which the only subject on which this court is at all interested. But having received intelligence of the share taken by Mahipat Ram in the expulsion of Timmapa and the establishment of Inkuppa's authority I communicated with the Minister on the subject but he appeared to take no interest in the transaction and seemed to imagine that the change in the administration of the Rajah's affairs would conduce to the more punctual discharge of his obligations to this state. But I have since ascertained from the minister himself that he was directed by the Nizam to take no notice of the transaction that Mahipat Ram had solicited to obtain. An Enayat Namah from His Highness approving of the change which had been effected in the administration of affairs at Sholapur that His Highness appeared desirous to comply with Mahipat Ram's wishes but that the Minister had formally protested against so improper a measure however the Minister at the express desire of His Highness evaded all discussion of the subject with me and as the British Government was by no means interested in it, I did not think it necessary to urge the Minister to any further disclosure of his sentiments. In observing this line of conduct I was desirous to avoid a discussion which might be

offensive to His Highness's feelings, as well as to manifest a scrupulous adherence to that leading principle of our alliance, by which we are prevented from interfering in the internal administration of this state

16 At a subsequent period when the Minister became impatient to realize the amount of the Peshkush due from the Rajah of Sholapur for the Fussy year 1216 Inkuppa Naik manifested no inclination to discharge the arrears and the Minister proposed to send a body of troops to Sholapur to enforce the payment of the Peshkush. On this occasion Mahipat Ram represented to the Nizam that the Minister, under the pretext of enforcing the payment of the Sholapore Peshkush intended to send a body of troops to seize his person and place him in close confinement, and he therefore, entreated His Highness not to consent to the employment of the troops in the manner proposed by the Minister. As for the payment of the Sholapur Peshkush, Mahipat Ram, undertook to become security for the regular discharge of the whole Peshkush by certain instalments, and for that purpose went through the form of negotiating bills on certain soucars at Hyderabad for the payment of the first instalment

17 As His Highness appeared anxious to avoid the employment of coercive measures, until less forcible means had been tried, and failed of success, and as the Minister was induced to expect that Mahipat Ram would adhere to his voluntary engagements the proposal for sending a force into the Sholapur district was relinquished and Sher Beg Khan was ordered to Sholapore for the purpose of receiving the amount of each instalment of the Peshkush either from Inkuppa Naik or Mahipat Ram

18 After the lapse of some weeks it became evident that Mahipat Ram had no serious intention of discharging the obligation which he had contracted, and Inkuppa Naik very candidly announced his incapability of raising so large a sum, as the annual Peshkush from the revenues of the Sholapur country. He had indeed paid a large sum of money to Mahipat Ram for the assistance he had received in the forcible acquisition of the administration of Sholapur, and Mahipat Ram had taken the precaution to secure the possession of such of the Rajah of Sholapore's personal property as might otherwise have enabled Inkuppa to raise some funds for the payment of the Peshkush. Besides which Inkuppa was burthened with the maintenance of the troops under the command of Mohammed Raza Sind and Nabbu Yai Jung, who remained at Sholapur and were ostensibly in the Rajah's service

19 During this period both the Nizam and the Minister were much indisposed in health. His Highness seldom quitted his Mahal and the Minister was too feeble to attend to anything but the court business of the Government. But when the minister recovered from his indisposition I sent for Sher Beg Khan from Sholapore and ascertained from that person what little reliance

ought to be placed on the promises of Rajah Mahipat Ram who had manifested no inclination to pay the first instalment of Peshkush although he had assumed an entire control over the affairs of the Sholapur country and has possessed himself of the most valuable part of the personal property of the Rajah

20 The Minister likewise ascertained both from the representation of Sher Beg Khan and other creditable sources of intelligence that the Rajah of Sholapore was extremely dissatisfied with the situation to which he had been reduced that he was anxious to withdraw himself from the oppression of Inkuppa Naik and to reinstate Timmappa in the management of his affairs That Inkuppa Naik probably under the apprehension of being driven from Sholapore by the adherents of the Rajah had sent the Rajah to a hill fort called Windroog and had subsequently removed him to Sholapore where he was closely guarded by Mahipat Ram That Timmappa with his eldest son had secreted himself in the neighbourhood of Sholapur and after escaping the pursuit of Inkuppa's troops was travelling towards Hyderabad for the purpose of throwing himself under the protection of the Nizam and of imploring His Highness's aid to restore the Rajah of Sholapur to the independent and undisturbed possession of his territories

21 Mahipat Ram addressed an Arzee to the Minister acquainting him that the Rajah of Sholapur had retired to Windroog and had subsequently come to Sholapore, and the motives of these movements is ascribed to the Rajah's apprehensions of the persons sent to claim on the part of this Government the payment of this Peshkush I have the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice a copy and translation of Mahipat Ram's Arzee to the Minister

22 This Arzee was accompanied with the most solemn assurances of Mahipat Ram's determination to make immediate arrangements for the discharge of the Peshkush for the Fasly year 116 and for the year 1217 which will soon become due. These assurances were repeated to the Nizam who being disposed to listen to them, the Minister did not judge it expedient to appear to refuse credit to them, although he was well convinced of their fallacy During the whole of these transactions Mahipat Ram repeatedly declared that he had no sort of connection with Inkuppa Naik that he had dismissed Mohamed Raza Khan and the other commanders from his service, and that he had given refuge to the Rajah of Sholapore with the view only of contributing to the interests of the Nizam's state by inducing him and Inkuppa Naik to proceed to the immediate discharge of the arrears of Peshkush due to the Government. But the part which Mahipat Ram had really acted on this transaction became sufficiently notorious, and I foresaw that the Minister would be soon reduced to the necessity either of renouncing all expectation of realizing the Peshkush or coming to some candid explanation with the Nizam and recurring to his original plan of enforcing the payment of the Peshkush by coercive measures.

23 If the question of the Sholapur Peshkush had stood alone the Minister would not have hesitated in his option between these two alternatives. But in fact the question of the Peshkush was so involved with the conduct and measures of Mahipat Ram, that the Minister did not well know how to act without giving offence to His Highness the Nizam. The fast of the Ramzan intervened which as usual suspended the transaction of all extra business during that month and the Minister afterwards had a relapse of his asthmatic complaint which rendered him averse from the agitation of any measure that would require his presence at the Durbar and might be attended with tedious altercations with the Nizam.

24 I do not know how long this state of indecision might have continued if a circumstance had not taken place which removed the Nizam's reluctance to employ a force against the Sholapur country and enabled the Minister to demonstrate the necessity of adopting the most decided measures to restrain the power which has lately been acquired by Inkuppa Nark.

25 The day before yesterday intelligence was received by Umzadul Moolk (the maternal uncle of Shamsul Omrah, and the Manager of the Pagah lands) that Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabbu Yar Jung with a body of troops had entered the districts of Gulbarga and Ferozabad and burnt many villages in those districts and had destroyed or taken possession of property of the amount of one lack and twentyfive thousand rupees. Amzad-Ool Moolk lost no time in communicating this intelligence to the Nizam and he entreated His Highness to direct Meer Allum to adopt immediate measures for the security of those districts, from further depredations. The Nizam was much surprised and rather indignant at so insolent and daring an outrage upon his territories. His Highness sent for Rajah Chandu Lal and directed him to carry the Arzee of Umzadul Moolk to Meer Allum and to desire Meer Allum to furnish him with a list of such troops as could be detached from Hyderabad to the Gulbarga District. Meer Allum highly approved His Highness's resolution to employ a force for the protection of the district, and furnished His Highness with a statement of the troops at Hyderabad, that were prepared for field service. His Highness then directed the Minister to communicate to me a copy of Umzadul Moolk's Arzee and to request my advice upon the subject. I accordingly received a note to that effect from the minister, to which I briefly replied by expressing my perfect concurrence in the expediency of employing a force for the protection of His Highness's possessions but as the Minister seemed desirous to see me for the purpose of communicating to me fully his sentiments on the subject I stated that I would wait upon him in the course of a day or two to hear what he had to say, and to convey to him what I had long felt desirous of stating respecting the late events at Sholapur and the conduct of Rajah Mahipat Ram.

26. In the course of that day Timmapa the late Dewan at Sholapur arrived at Hyderabad and had an interview with the Minister. Timmapa remained with the Minister for some time and presented letters from the Rajah of Sholapur to the Minister and the Nizam after which he was directed to call upon me the next day for the purpose of delivering a letter from the Rajah of Sholapur to my address and of giving me the fullest information respecting the wishes of the Rajah and the situation of his affairs.

7 Timmapa accordingly waited upon me the next day delivered to me the Rajah of Sholapur's letter and made me circumstantially acquainted with every thing that had taken place at Sholapur. But I am reluctant to detain this dispatch any longer and shall proceed in my next address to relate to your Lordship what passed at this meeting as well as at my interview with the Minister and to state the measures which the Nizam and the Minister have determined to pursue not only for the protection of the Gulburga districts but with a view to the future situations of the Rajah of Sholapur and Rajah Mahipat Ram.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

T SYDENHAM

Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad

The 22nd December 1807

Letter No. 6.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins. Sydenham reports to the Governor-General the disturbances in the Sholapur region due to the mischief of Rajah Mahipat Ram. He had instigated and assisted Inkuppa Naik to overthrow the Dewan Tumappa of Ped Naik the Rajah of Sholapur and had sent Mohammed Raza Khan Sindi and Nabl Yar Jung as his agent to accomplish the task. Ped Naik with his family had been kept in confinement at Shapore where lived Mahipat Ram. Timappa's family and goods had been seized. To set these matters right he was in agreement with Meer Allum to take certain measures, which are suggested in the body of the letter.

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL

Hyderabad, the 25th January 1808.

I have the honour to lay before your Lordship copies and translation of the note from the Ministers No 1 and 2 and of

my reply No 3 together with a copy and translation of the Arzee from Amzudool Moolk to the Nizam, to which papers I alluded in the 25th paragraph of my last dispatch

2 I have already stated that Timmappa Naik, the late Dewan at Shahpooi waited upon me on the 22nd instant, and I now proceed to relate what passed at that meeting

3 Timmappa was accompanied by his eldest son, by a confidential Mootesuddee of Rajah Chandu Lals and by the Agent who resides at this Court on the part of the Rajah of Sholapore After the usual interchange of civilities, Timmappa presented to me a letter from the Rajah of Sholapore of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy and translation This letter almost the same as those addressed by the Rajah to Meer Allum and His Highness the Nizam

4 Both Timmappa and the Rajah's Agent confirmed what the Rajah has stated in his letter respecting the means by which he was deprived of all real authority, the distress which he suffers under the oppressive administration of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee, his anxiety to be restored to his legal authority and to re-establish Timmappa to his former situation and the circumstance of his being held in confinement by those whom he designates as his enemies The expressions employed in the first part of the Rajah's letter will be from every quarter regarding the share which Rajah Mahipat Ram took in placing the Rajah of Sholapoor in the hands of Inkuppa Naik for the purpose of procuring for himself an entire control over the Sholapoor country

5 Timmappah stated that the Rajah of Sholapore looked to the Nizam's Government for protection and support, and that the Rajah would enter into the most positive engagements for the payment of the arrears of Paishkush and for the regular discharge in future of his obligations the Nizam's Government

6 He then made forcible appeal to the justice and liberality of the British Government and he entreated me to afford my assistance in removing the Rajah of Sholapore from the control and oppression of Mahipat Ram and Inkuppa Naik and in replacing the Rajah in a state of independent authority over his hereditary possessions He stated that as long as the Rajah was kept in his present conduct of servitude he could adopt no measures for the discharge of his obligation to the Governments of the Nizam and the Peshwa, that heavy arrears would accumulate which no exertions of his could possibly liquidate, that

those Governments would employ troops to enforce their rights and that the country of Sholapur would be depopulated and ruined

7 I replied that however I might commiserate with the Rajah on the important situation to which he had been reduced yet the British Government could not interfere in a transaction which entirely rested with His Highness the Nizam. That His Highness and his Ministers would of course adopt such measures as they might judge necessary for the security of his territories from the depredation of the Sholapur troops on account of His Highness's pecuniary rights over the Rajah. That when called upon by Nizam for my sentiments I should offer such advice as might appear to me most conducive to the rights and interests of this state.

8 Timmappa then told me that he had consulted with Meer Allum and Rajah Chandulal on the means of restoring the Rajah of Sholapur to independent authority and of securing the regular and punctual payment of the Paishkush but that Meer Allum would come to no determination until he had received my opinion upon the subject. I said that I intended to visit Meer Allum the following day and would listen to the plan that had been suggested for the accomplishment of those important objects. Timmappa stated that he had been particularly desired by Meer Allum to make me fully acquainted with all the circumstances of the late transactions at Sholapur. I replied that I was ready to hear his account of those events, and he accordingly related to me all that he knew or had heard of the circumstances connected with them. But as his narrative was extremely diffuse and unconnected, I directed my Moonshis to draw out in my presence a statement of what Timmappa had said and I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of that statement which contains every circumstance of consequence related by Timmappah.

9 On the morning of the 23rd I called upon the Minister whom I was happy to find a good deal recovered from his late attack of asthma, though he complained of much oppression at his breast when he moved about or spoke in a loud tone of voice.

10 He told me that the Nizam was determined to send without loss of time a party of troops into the Gulbarga District that a respectable Emir of the name of Nizamut Jung, who is connected with His Highness's family had been appointed to the command of the Detachment, that the Battalion lately raised by Mr Gordon would form a part of the Infantry to be employed on this service and that as Nizamut Jung was unacquainted with military affairs, Mr Gordon was to be invested with a discretionary power over the movements of the detachment. The Minister then gave me a statement of the troops, intended to proceed to the Gulbarga district of which statement I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation.

11 The Minister proceeded to observe that it became a subject of serious consideration how to prevent the recurrence of outrages similar to that which had been lately committed by the troops ostensibly in the service of the Rajah of Sholapoor, upon the territories of His Highness the Nizam, and how to ensure the regular payment of the Paishkush due to this state from the Rajah of Sholapoor. That the arrears of Paishkush already amounted to nearly eight lacks of rupees, and that in a few months five lacks more would become due so that a deficiency of thirteen lacks of rupees would shortly accumulate in the Revenue of this state which he saw no prospect of the recovering while the Rajah of Sholapoor was permitted to remain in his present condition. He, therefore considered it to be of the utmost importance to the interests and tranquillity of this state that some measures should be immediately pursued for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. That while the Rajah continues to be subjected to the oppressive administration of Inkuppa Naik or rather of Rajah Mahipat Ram, and as long as Inkuppa retained Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabi Yar Jung in the service of the Rajah of Sholapoor, no expedition could be formed of realizing the Peshkush or of protecting the Nizam's possessions from the depredation of the Sholapoor troops without the permanent establishment of a strong force in that quarter, that the permanent employment of a body of troops in that quarter would be inconvenient and expensive, that it would not secure the regular payment of the Peshkush and that it would be inconsistent with the reputation and dignity of this state to station a force in the Gulburga district to protect the Nizam's territories from the continual insults and outrages of Inkuppa Naik, who partly by fraud, partly by force, but principally by the assistance of the subjects of the Nizam, had been enabled to usurp the legitimate authority of the Rajah of Sholapoor, and to employ the resources of that district in injuring and insulting the Nizam's possession. He, therefore, considered it to be absolutely necessary that Rajah Ped Naik should be reinstated in the legitimate and independent possession of his country that Timmappa, agreeably to the anxious wish of the Rajah, should be restored to the Dewani, that Inkuppa Naik should be induced or compelled to return to his former condition, and that vigorous measures should be taken for the dispersion of the party that had been collected by Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and Nabi Yar Jung.

12 Here I interrupted the Minister by stating that although I cordially agreed to the propriety and policy of adopting the measures he had proposed, for the settlement of the Sholapoor country and the realization of the rights of this state, over the Rajah of Sholapoor yet that he appeared in this statement to have overlooked Rajah Mahipat Ram who was unquestionably the person who had originally excited the disturbances in that quarter, had obtained the supreme control over the Rajah of Sholapoor's possessions, and was most capable of resisting the measures which had been proposed by the Minister.

13. The Minister replied that though he had not mentioned the name of Rajah Mahipat Ram excepting in a casual way yet he was not the less aware of his having entirely directed all the measures that had been pursued at Sholapoor that Mahipat Ram would not however oppose any arrangements which might be concerted with me and should be sanctioned by His Highness the Nizam for that would be placing himself in the situation of a public enemy of this Government in which case it would be necessary to employ the most decisive means for reducing him to subjection. It was more probable that Mahipat Ram would be anxious to shake off his connection with Mohammed Raza Khan and Inkuppa Naik and would pretend to no share either in the past conduct or future designs of those persons.

14. I enquired whether the Nizam would be willing to authorize the execution of the measures which the Minister proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. The Minister said that he had no reason to suppose that His Highness would object to them. That His Highness was much offended at the late depredations committed in the Gulbarga districts and must naturally feel anxious to realize the sums due from the Sholapoor country and it was manifest that neither His Highness's territories could be secured from the repetition of similar outrages nor the Sholapoor Parishkash collected without the Government of that country were peaceably settled. I enquired whether His Highness were distinctly informed of the nature and extent of Mahipat Ram's proceedings at Sholapoor. The Minister replied that intelligence of Mahipat Ram's proceedings had been regularly conveyed to the Nizam but His Highness had manifested no inclination to attend to them as long as those transactions did not interfere with the tranquillity of those territories that now His Highness must be made sensible of the propriety of restraining the further proceedings of a man who had been the original cause of the very outrage of which His Highness so much complained.

15. I next requested the Minister to inform me what were precisely the measures which he intended to pursue for the settlement of a Sholapoor country. The Minister replied that the first object was to secure the western districts from the depredations of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan Sindce, which object he thought would be immediately accomplished by the march of His Highness's troops towards Gulbarga. It was then his design to employ the troops in restoring Rajah Pid Naik to his legitimate authority and in replacing Timmappa in the Dewani. The families of Ped Naik and Timmappa were in the custody of Mahipat Ram at Shahpoor and might be delivered up to the Officer Commanding the Nizam's troops. Timmappa would accompany the detachment and would be prepared to exercise his influence over the inhabitants of Sholapoor and the principal persons near Ped Naik to desert the cause of Inkuppa and assist in restoring their master to his legitimate authority. Rajah Mahipat Ram would be directed to restore the families

jewels and other personal property of Ped Naik and Timmappa to Nizam Jung and Major Gordon, and would be cautioned not to assist or protect Inkuppa Naik or Mohammed Raza Khan and if those persons resisted to peaceable execution of those measures it would be necessary to attack and disperse their parties

16 I observed that successful execution of the proposed plan would depend upon the following points 1st the Line of conduct which would be pursued by Raja Mahipat Ram, 2nd the degree of influence possessed by Timmappa over the principal persons in Sholapoor and 3rd the number of troops which Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raja Khan would collect for the purpose of resisting the execution of the proposed measures, I, therefore, begged leave to enquire what information the Minister possessed upon those points

17 The Minister said in reply, that he was well assured that Rajah Mahipat Ram would be sensible of the necessity of obeying any orders that he might receive from the Nizam and that he would not incur the fatal consequences of maintaining his association with Inkuppa Naik 2nd That he had every reason to conclude that Timmappa possessed considerable influence over the Sholapoor country, and would be capable of effecting the whole arrangement without the assistance of any troops if Inkuppa Naik were not supported by the parties under Mohammed Raza Khan Nabi Yar Jung and Sadoolah Khan 3rd That the body of troops of all discription collected under Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan and their associates did not exceed five thousand and would not be capable of opposing the detachment, that it was intended to send from Hyderabad

18 I asked what steps the Minister intended to take for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the Nizam to the system of measures which he proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country The Minister stated that he was too feeble to attend the Durbar himself, that his arzees would not be read by the Nizam, and that the representations of Rajah Chandulal had not that weight with His Highness which the importance of such a communication required He, therefore, was solicitous that I should wait upon the Nizam for the purpose of submitting to His Highness a plain statement of the circumstances which had occurred at Sholapoor and of demonstrating the policy and propriety of the measures which were proposed for the settlement of that country

19 I said that as I entirely agreed with Minister in the policy and propriety of those measures, I should be happy to recommend their immediate adoption to the Nizam but that it would be incumbent upon me to expose the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and to comment without reason upon the nature of his conduct for the last twelve months at Sholapoor. That I was

not particularly interested in the fate of the Sholapoor country but that when I considered the character sentiments and designs of Mahipat Ram and the circumstances which led to his dismissal from Berar and his banishment to Shapoor I could not but feel great jealousy at his being suffered to maintain a considerable body of troops about his person in defiance of the Minister's orders and of his own positive engagements to refrain secretly under his influence military commanders who had been dismissed from the Nizam's service for the contumacy of their conduct to excite and direct a revolution in the Government of a neighbouring country with which he had not the slightest pretence of interference to control afterwards the affairs of the new Government thus established by himself to maintain an extensive correspondence in every place where his intrigues could become dangerous, and to persist in a secret intercourse with the Nizam which His Highness had solemnly pledged himself to discontinue. I therefore thought it of much more importance to those general interests which were committed to my charge that some final arrangement should take effect to place Rajah Mahipat Ram in the condition prescribed in the paper of agreement that had been signed by the Nizam that the Rajah of Sholapoor should be withdrawn from the influence of Inkuppa Naikue because any plan for the settlement of the Sholapoor country would be precarious as long as Mahipat Ram was left at liberty and with means to control the actions of the Rajah of Sholapoor. As long as Mahipat Ram in a state of ostensible disgrace and banishment was permitted to retain a large body of troops either immediately or indirectly attached to his interests as long as he was suffered without authority and without right to exercise a supreme control over the neighbouring country it would be vain to check that influence at Hyderabad and in Berar which it was the principal object of the British Government to destroy. I should therefore be happy to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing in respectful terms to the Nizam my opinion of the late proceedings of Raja Mahipat Ram in order to prevail upon His Highness to authorize some arrangement to be made which should place that person in the exact situation intended by the stipulation regarding him in the paper of Agreements that had been ratified by the Nizam. I felt the greatest anxiety to effect this point on the present occasion because I was perfectly assured that such an arrangement would be the most certain mode of accomplishing the objects which the Minister had in view for the settlement of the Sholapoor country.

20 The Minister observed that he had long been sensible of the necessity of placing Rajah Mahipat Ram in the situation which was described in the paper of agreements and he thought I should render an important service to the harmony and repose of this Government, if I could prevail on the Nizam to sanction such a measure for it was evident that the present situation of Mahipat Ram was by no means of such a nature as to prevent him

from exercising an extensive and dangerous influence or of prosecuting active measures without the sanction and authority of this Government. The Minister then complained in very severe terms of the encouragement given by the Nizam to Mahipat Ram contrary to the His Highness's solemn engagements and to the declarations which he was in the daily habit of making. The Minister said that Mahipat Ram paid no attention to the repeated orders which had been issued to him for the dismissal of the troops, which he retained about his person exclusively of the parties that belonged to Mohammed Raza Khan, Nabı Yar Jung and Sadulla Khan. That he affected to treat the Ministers and the principal Omrahs at Court with the greatest contempt, prided himself upon being placed beyond the reach of the regular authority of Government by his influence with the Nizam, and proclaimed himself to be the leader of a party hostile to the interests of the British Government.

21 It was finally determined that I should wait upon the Nizam for the purpose of conveying to His Highness my sentiments respecting the conduct of Mahipat Ram and of effecting some arrangement which might in future restrain that person from exercising a dangerous influence over the Nizam's territories and from pursuing any active measures injurious to the tranquillity and interest of the state.

22 I trust that your Lordship would approve of my affording my consent and countenance to the plan which the Minister proposes for the settlement of the Sholapoor country because I am assured that his plan is absolutely necessary to the security of His Highness's south-western districts and to the regulation of the legitimate rights of this Government over the Rajah of Sholapur and because the adoption of such a plan may avoid the necessity of affording to this Government that Military assistance which His Highness may require from the British Government in the event of the continuance and increase of the power that has been obtained and exercised by Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan.

23 I also hope that it will appear manifest to your Lordship that it is incumbent on me to notice the late proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and to insist on the satisfactory completion of the arrangement with regard to that person, which formed the principal object of those important measures that were pursued at this court in the latter end of the year 1806 and on the beginning of the succeeding year.

Letter No 7.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Elphin stone In this enclosure Sydenham reports to the Governor General the details of the negotiation between the minister and the Nizam assisted by him on the one hand, and Mahipat Ram on the other He narrates how at first Mahipat Ram showed himself agreeable to the terms of peace but later changed his mind attacked the Nizam's troops aided by a small detachment of the Subsidiary force and defeated them The agent of the Resident Mr Gordon, who had been negotiating the terms was put to death and a few Europeans were either killed or wounded in the battle A strong detachment of the Subsidiary force was, therefore sent immediately

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD
To—THE RT HON BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR
GENERAL.

Hyderabad the 25th February 1808

I now proceed to lay before your Lordship a narrative of the proceedings of Mr Palmer in the conduct of the Mission on which he was employed by the Minister of His Highness the Nizam.

2 It is proper to notice that Mr Palmer was deputed by Meer Allum to Shapoor at the particular request and repeated solicitation of Rajah Mahipat Ram and that His Highness the Nizam had expressed his pleasure that Mr Palmer should be so employed

3. Mr Palmer was instructed by Meer Allum to conclude an arrangement with Rajah Mahipat Ram on the following conditions —

(1) That Rajah Mahipat Ram should deliver up the families, jewels and personal property of the Rajah of Sholapoor and of his Deewan Timmappa Naik.

(2) That he should dissolve his connection with Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee Nabi Yar Jung and other adherents, and that he should not either directly or indirectly afford assistance, encouragement or protection to those persons.

(3) That he should desist from all further interference in the Government of the Sholapoor country and that he should promise to take no part in future in the affairs of the Rajah of Sholapoor

(4) That he should immediately dismiss all his troops with the exception of five hundred Infantry

(5) That he should give satisfactory security for the payment of the balance which he himself had acknowledged to be due to this Government. Upon these conditions Mahipat Ram was to be allowed to retain his personal Jagheers, to receive Rs 2,600 as an allowance to himself, his nephew Shreepat Ram and other members of his family, and to maintain 500 Infantry for which he was to be paid 4,500 Rupees a month. He was likewise to receive from the proper officer of account, a general release from all claims upon him.

4 These conditions will no doubt appear to your Lordship not only reasonable but liberal. Mahipat Ram was only called upon to deliver up families and property, which he has seized without authority, and without the slightest pretence of right. He was to dissolve a connection, which he had repeatedly and solemnly disowned, he was not to afford assistance or protection to the public enemies of the state. He was to dismiss troops, which he had no right to maintain. He was to desist from an unauthorized and unjust interference in the Government and concerns of a Zamindar, whose dependence on his state is confined to the payment of an annual tribute, and he was to pay a balance of public money which he himself acknowledged to be due to this Government. These conditions were not only necessary to the future tranquillity of this country, but they do not contain one stipulation which could be considered to be injurious to the honour or offensive to the feelings of Mahipat Ram. Upon these conditions every proposition of Mahipat Ram was acceded to, and he was only to be placed in that situation to which the Nizam had deliberately consented at the desire of the British Government more than 12 months ago.

5 Mr Palmer was likewise directed by the Minister to endeavour to prevail upon Inkuppah Naik, to leave Mohammad Raza Khan and return to Hyderabad, where the Minister promised that Inkuppa should be suffered to live without molestation on a pension of 22,000 Rupees per annum.

6 But the Minister insisted no terms should be granted to Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee who had behaved with great insolence or contumacy, had treated with contempt all the orders that had been sent to recall him from Shahpoor, had relinquished the Nizam's service and had since attacked the possessions of his former sovereign. Meer Allum had, therefore, resolved that the detachment should be employed in compelling Mohammed Raza Khan to quit the Nizam's territories and the district of Sholapoor, and if necessary to disperse the party of bandittee and adventurers that had been collected under his standard.

7 The detachment under the command of Nizam-at-Jang and Mr Gordon marched to Narainpeth a place about 20 miles from Eidgarh on the road to Shahpoor where it was to remain until Mahipat Ram had concluded an arrangement with Mr Palmer, and this measure was adopted at the particular solicitation of Mahipat Ram to mark that the Minister had no designs against

the persons and property of Mahipat Ram. But it was distinctly made known to Mahipat Ram that the detachment would proceed to Eidgarh and advance to the westward in the event of Moham med Raza Khan Sindee re-entering the territories of the Nizam or the district of Sholapoor or of any resistance being made to the complete re-establishment of the Rajah's authority.

8. When Mr Palmer left Hyderabad Meer Allum directed him to report his proceedings to him in the Persian language, and also to keep me regularly informed of them. This circumstance enabled me to lay before your Lordship a copious narrative of Mr Palmer's proceedings written by himself at Shahpoor and contained in a series of letters which I have taken the liberty to forward by the present despatch. It will occur to your Lordship that these letters were written in great haste, under very distressing circumstances and not supposed by Mr Palmer to be likely to be submitted to Government but they contain so full and so faithful an account of his proceedings and of the conduct of Rajah Mahipat Ram that I have considered it to be proper to lay them all before your Lordship in their original state.

9. I have also been induced to submit to your Lordship's notice the several private letters which I wrote to Mr Palmer and Mr Gordon on the subject of Mahipat Ram's proposals and the settlement of the Sholapoor country. Those officers received their orders and instructions from Meer Allum but at his request as well as that of His Highness the Nizam, I corresponded with them on every subject connected with the service on which they were employed.

10. As the object of Mr Palmer's deputation has been defeated by the unexpected treachery and violence of Rajah Mahipat Ram and as it has become necessary to employ a part of the Subsidiary force to reduce that person to subjection it is proper that I should review the conduct of Mahipat Ram since the period that Mr Palmer arrived at Shahpoor and should offer to your Lordship such observations and reflection as occur to me on the present delicate crisis of our interests at this court.

11. Mr Palmer arrived at Shahpoor on the 22nd January. At their first meeting Mahipat Ram made assurances of a ready compliance with all the wishes of this Government. He manifested no objections to the immediate delivery of the Rajah of Sholapoor's son and he promised to restore the family of Timmapa.

12. It may be proper to notice that Mahipat Ram had detained the son of Ped Naik as a security for the payment of a sum of money pretended to be due by Ped Naik to Mahipat Ram. But Mr Palmer ascertained that the money was not received by Ped Naik from Mahipat Ram, but that Ped Naik had been compelled

to sign a bond for the amount on the plea of the money, being due to Mohammed Raza Khan. It should be remembered that Mahipat Ram continued to levy money on the Sholapoor country for the payment of this pretended debt. From this process your Lordship will be able to judge of the nature of the control exercised by Mahipat Ram over the Sholapoor country, and of the shallow artifice by which he attempts to avoid the appearance of direct interference. Rajah Ped Naik is compelled to sign a bond acknowledging a debt to Mohammed Raza Khan on account of arrears of pay to his quota of troops. Mahipat Ram undertakes to collect this money, from the Sholapoor country, and employs his troops for that purpose and he seizes the son of Ped Naik as a security that no opposition should be made to the payment of this contribution.

13 Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that Mr Palmer in his first interview, acquaints Mahipat Ram that if Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan should remain in the field it will be necessary to Mahipat Ram's security and good name that he retires to whatever fort Meer Allum may choose to point out meaning by this that Mahipat Ram will avoid the suspicion of taking any share in the future conduct of Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan.

14 Mr Palmer was induced to consent to Mahipat Ram's retaining his troops, until a release from all demands upon him should be procured from the Sirkar, and on the other hand Mahipat Ram promised to recall such of his troops as were employed in collecting money from the Sholapoor country.

15 By a subsequent letter from Mr Palmer it would appear that Mahipat Ram repeatedly failed on his promise to deliver up the family of Timmapah, and that Mr Palmer, in consequence resolved to leave Shahpoor. That Mahipat Ram induced Mr Palmer to remain by fresh promise and again received him.

16 During this interval Mahipat Ram recalled Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan from the Mahrattah territories and they consequently moved back towards Shahpoor by forced marches. When Mr. Palmer received intelligence of the return of those troops, he advised Mr Gordon to advance to the westward, as the position and movements of Inkuppah's army threatened Sholapoor. When Mahipat Ram had been joined by Mohammed Raza Khan, he assumed an imperious and menacing tone of language, and even threatened to attack the Nizam's detachment before it should cross the river Beema. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that Mahipat Ram had been amusing Mr Palmer by promises and assurances of obedience until he should be supported by the large body of troops collected under Inkuppah and Mohammed Raza Khan.

17 However by subsequent advises from Mr Palmer, it appeared that Mahipat Ram was fully sensible of the imprudence and impropriety of his conduct, and was seriously disposed to yield

obedience to the orders of this Government. He addressed an Arzee to Meer accompanied by a paper continuing on the following proposals —

(1) That he was to be allowed 500 Foot and 2 600 Rupees a month for himself and his friends to retain his former Jagheers and to have a district settled upon him the Revenue of which should be equivalent to the amount of his pension and the maintenance of the 500 foot

(2) In case the Meer objects to confer a district upon him he proposes to retire to Benares on a pension of 5,000 Rupees a month

(3) If the pension be not granted he proposes to receive a general permission to seek his fortune and to go whithersoever he chooses.

18 Meer Allum immediately acceded to the 2nd proposal and promised that the monthly allowance of 5 000 Rupees should be regularly paid in the manner most convenient and agreeable to Mahipat Ram Meer Allum did not express any desire to insist upon the delivery of Inkuppah Nark or upon any retribution for the injuries that had been committed either in the Sholapur country or the territories of the Nizam. In fact the Minister was so anxious to induce Mahipat Ram to leave these territories and retire to Benares that he was very scrupulous not to raise any objection that might prevent Mahipat Ram from the immediate execution of his plan

19. But it became necessary to obtain His Highness the Nizam's consent to Mahipat Ram's proposals and I accordingly proposed to the Minister that I should wait upon His Highness for the purpose of demonstrating the propriety of his granting permission to Mahipat Ram to retire with all his family to Benares.

20 It was some time before I could procure an audience of His Highness who appeared to be desirous to avoid receiving my visit though the intervention of the Koorban Feast affording plausible excuse for the delay which occurred. At length I was invited to the Durbar where I found Meer Allum and Chandu Lal.

21 When the Minister had communicated to the Nizam the account of Mr Palmer's proceedings and of Mahipat Ram's proposals His Highness asked me what I thought upon the subject. I replied that I did not perceive my particular objection to either the 1st or 2nd proposal but that I preferred the latter His Highness enquired why I preferred the second proposal. I replied because it would remove from these territories a person who had manifested a dangerous spirit of intrigue and restlessness and had repeatedly interrupted the harmony and good understanding which ought to subsist between the two states. I then reviewed in a rapid manner the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct since my arrival at Hyderabad, and particularly insisted on the insolence, injustice and violence of his late proceedings at Shahpoor His Highness remarked that precautions might be taken to restrain the future conduct of Mahipat

Ram I told His Highness in the plainest terms that I should have no confidence in such precautions, and that I could place no faith in the assurances and promises however solemn of Mahipat Ram. I said that Benares was, of all places, the most proper for the retirement of a Hindu, that Mahipat Ram in addition to his private fortune, would receive a liberal income from this Government, that he would live in security and affluence under the immediate protection of the Company, that the plan proposed by Mahipat Ram was the most prudent that he could adopt, for I was well assured that if he remained in these territories, he would not rest until he had involved himself in difficulty and danger, or had produced some serious misunderstanding between His Highness and the British Government.

22 His Highness's reluctance to the proposal seemed to abate after he had heard my sentiments on the subject, and he authorized Meer Allum to acquaint Mahipat Ram, that he would permit him to retire to Benares if he still continued desirous to leave these territories. His Highness also desired me to write to that effect to Mr Palmer.

23 His Highness then remarked with an air of apparent concern, that the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct, of which I had complained had been occasioned by a difference of opinion between His Highness and Meer Allum. I observed that I had witnessed with deep regret, the existence of that difference, to which His Highness with his usual wisdom and magnanimity would not recur to what had past, but would now be cordially reconciled to a servant, who merited His Highness's most implicit confidence.

24 His Highness observed that Meer Allum would never listen to his advice nor concede with him in opinion. The Meer said he was not conscious of even having rejected the advice or disobeyed the orders of his sovereign and he trusted that His Highness would at least condescend to point out an instance of his obstinacy or disobedience. His Highness considered for some time and at length to my great surprize asked the Minister what was the answer that he had given to the question respecting the difference between a father-in-law and a son-in-law. The minister said that the best of his recollection he had replied that there was no difference provided they were friends. His Highness looked to me with an air of much confidence as if I could no longer doubt of the existence of that difference of opinion to which he had alluded. But I observed that I did not pretend to understand the object of the question, and that it appeared to me to be totally unconnected with the subject before us.

25 His Highness continued his complaint, by stating that after my arrival he had been solicitous to retain Mahipat Ram at Hyderabad, but Meer Allum had insisted on sending him to Berar. The consequence was that Mahipat Ram had rendered himself obnoxious to the British Government. When Mahipat Ram was removed from Berar His Highness wished that he should be brought

to the city That the Minister had insisted on his being sent to Shahpoor The consequence was that Mahipat Ram had effected a change in the affairs of the Sholapoor country to re-establish which it had become necessary to employ a military force. His Highness had expressed his wish that Mahipat Ram should be accompanied to Berar by two battalions of the Subsidiary Force but this proposal had been overruled by the Minister's objection If two battalions had been stationed in Berar it would have been impossible for Mahipat Ram to have engaged in any improper designs If he had been kept at Hyderabad instead of being sent to Berar or had returned to Hyderabad instead of being sent to Shahpoor the present unpleasant extremity would have been avoided If Mahipat Ram was of a dangerous character he ought not to have been entrusted with power and he ought not to have been suffered to remain at liberty to prosecute his designs It was Meer Allum who had entrusted him with so much power and had raised to so eminent a station and it was Meer Allum who prevented his being confined to the city of Hyderabad Such were the arguments employed by the Nizam who very distinctly informed that the whole of Mahipat Ram's conduct was to be attributed to the Minister's obstinate rejection of his Sovereign's advice

26 The Minister replied at length to all these accusations and indeed it did not require much strength of argument to refute so absurd and perverted a train of charges. In the first place the Minister asserted that he had not placed Mahipat Ram in the charge of the province of Berar and that he had not invited him to Hyderabad That after Mahipat Ram's arrival he acquired the exclusive confidence of the Nizam and he gradually assumed an entire control over the administration of this country That Mahipat Ram therefore, was indebted for his elevation to His Highness's patronage and favour and not to the Minister's assistance or support That the British Resident had repeatedly urged the propriety of sending Mahipat Ram to Berar because he had no ostensible employment in Hyderabad but had a most extensive and important charge in that province. That the Resident would not accede to the proposal of detaching two Battalions with Mahipat Ram to Berar because such a measure did not appear necessary at that time, and because the Governor-General had insisted that this Government should employ its own troops for the security and defence of its territories That the Resident had suggested the removal of Mahipat Ram to Shahpoor and would have remonstrated against the proposal of bringing that person to Hyderabad that all those arrangements had been discussed with His Highness by the Resident or in his presence by the Ministers of the Government and that they had been sanctioned and ratified by His Highness himself That no person suspected the hostile disposition of Mahipat Ram when he left Hyderabad but after he had betrayed his character and designs in Berar he had been removed from all employment and banished to Shahpoor. That since his arrival at Shahpoor the most minute information of his proceedings had

been communicated to His Highness but His Highness was pleased not to pay any attention to that information, nor to sanction the adoption of certain measures of precaution, which had been advised by His Highness's ministers. The Minister then said that he felt much distressed at having subjected himself to such grave complaints from His Highness, that he was devoted to His Highness's service and considered his property and life to be at His Highness's disposal but as long as he was entrusted with the administration of the country it was incumbent on him to offer his advice honestly and unreservedly, and that it remained with His Highness to listen, or not to the advice of his servants. The Minister took God to witness that he coveted neither riches nor employment if His Highness wished to appoint another Minister he would cheerfully act under him, to the best of his ability, or if His Highness chose to dispense with his services altogether, he was prepared to retire from the world, and pass the remainder of his life in solitude and prayer.

27 His Highness appeared impatient to drop the subject, and said that they should so manage as not to differ hereafter, in order to prevent the reoccurrence of such transactions as had recently happened.

28 I considered it proper to confirm what the Minister had stated, with respect to the share I had taken in all the arrangements, regarding Mahipat Ram which I assured His Highness were strictly consonant with the wishes and instructions of the Governor-General.

29 The singular question respecting the difference between a father-in-law and son-in-law to which His Highness alluded refers to Meer Allum and Moonir Ool Moolk, for the Nizam has always been jealous of the intimacy and cordiality that subsists between them. The other accusations preferred by the Nizam against the Minister, are founded upon a conception strongly impressed on the mind of His Highness by Mahipat Ram and his friends, that all the measures against Mahipat Ram originated with the Minister and were merely acceded to by the Resident.

30 I shall now resume the narrative of Mr Palmer's proceedings at Shahpoor. As soon as I had ascertained that the Minister was anxious to comply with the proposal of Mahipat Ram, to retire to Benares, I wrote to Mr Palmer a letter dated the 4th of February, which is the second in the enclosed series of my correspondence to that gentleman. In that letter and in a subsequent one dated the 6th of February I acquainted Mr Palmer with the Minister's assent to Mahipat Ram's proposals and I added such assurances on my part as I thought were likely to convince Mahipat Ram of the ease and security with which he would be suffered to live under the protection of the British Government. Rajah Chandu Lal wrote Persian Letters nearly to the same effect both to Mahipat Ram and to Mr Palmer. From Mr Palmer's letter of the 10th February, it appeared that Rajah Mahipat Ram was highly gratified by my compliance, with his proposal to retire to Benares.

as it was the first object of his heart. Nothing therefore remained to be done but to procure the Nizam's sanction to the proposal which was obtained in general terms at the interview which I had with His Highness and the particulars of which I have already described. His Highness's determination on the subject was communicated to Mahipat Ram and to Mr Palmer by Rajah Chandulal and by me to Mr Palmer in a letter dated the 11th of February. But circumstances which I shall hereafter describe prevented these letters from reaching Shahpoor.

31 It will now be proper to direct your Lordship's attention to the movements of the Nizam's detachment and to the proceedings of Mr Palmer for the re-establishment of Rajah Ped Naik's authority over the country of Sholapoor.

3 It was always very evident that no satisfactory or permanent arrangement could be made for the settlement of the Sholapoor country until the predatory troops of Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan should be dispersed. The number of those troops were estimated and I believe with tolerable accuracy at four thousand men and they consisted of Sindees, Arabs, Rohillas, a few Siddies and a number of adventurers collected by Inkuppa Naik from the districts bordering on either side of the frontier which divides the Nizam's from the Peshwa's possessions. The heavy contributions levied by Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan had almost exhausted the Sholapoor country and they had therefore been compelled to subsist their troops by depredations on the country belonging to the Nizam and the Peshwa. Whenever Mahipat Ram should dismiss his troops it was reasonable to conclude that they would flock for service and subsistence to the standards of Inkuppa and Mohammed Raza Khan. If those persons should attempt to repeat their depredations on the Peshwa's territories it was certain that the Mahrattah Chieftains would collect their troops for the protection of their districts and although Inkuppa Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan might evacuate the Sholapoor country on the approach of the Nizam's detachment they would be prepared to return as soon as the Nizam's troops should be withdrawn. It would therefore become absolutely necessary to station a large body of troops to the westward both for the protection of the Nizam's territories, and for the security of those arrangements which the Minister proposed for the settlement of the Sholapoor country. The Minister had the strongest expectation (which has since been fulfilled) that Inkuppa would be compelled to leave Mohammed Raza Khan and return to Hyderabad. The whole party of freebooters would therefore remain under the command and direction of Mohammed Raza Khan, a daring soldier of fortune, who acknowledged no superior, is in the service of no Government and who would subsist his troops by plunder. To these considerations of prudence may be added the political importance of inflicting a severe chastisement upon a subordinate commander who had first relinquished the service of the state with every circumstance of insolence and contumacy and had afterwards attacked the possessions of the Nizam in an open unprovoked manner.

33 When I called upon the Minister he pointed out with great strength and clearness of arguments the immediate necessity of attacking that body of freebooters of whose return to the neighbourhood of Shahpoor he had just received intelligence, both from Mr Palmer and the Rajah of Sholapoor I enquired whether the troops of the Nizam were in sufficient number to venture to attack the opposite party Both the Minister and Chandu Lal assured me that the Detachment consisted of 5,500 men and that it would shortly be reinforced by another body of 2,000 horse The Minister then instructed his Moonshi to prepare orders to be addressed to Nizam Jung and Mr Gordon directing them to seize the first favourable opportunity of attacking the troops under Inkuppah Naik and Mohammed Raza Khan The Minister likewise requested that I would write to the same effect to Mr Gordon and furnish that Gentleman with such advice as I judged expedient

34 I accordingly wrote a letter to Mr Gordon, dated the 4th February and marked it No 3 in which I pointed out the political importance of destroying the party of Mohammed Raza Khan, and offered my sentiments on the probability of the success of such a measure In that letter I stated to Mr Gordon that not having obtained any accurate account of the force with him or of the number of the party under the Sindee, I was not capable of deciding upon the prudence of attacking him I also gave him to understand that the measures which I had recommended must be left to his discretion, as he was the only person capable of determining whether they could be adopted with probability of success, not to hazard anything unnecessarily as it would be better to wait a little than to risk the danger and disgrace of defeat In a letter of the same date to Mr Palmer (No 3) I observed that such an attack should not be attempted without the almost certainty of giving the Sindee a complete defeat

35 This measure was proposed in the confidence that Rajah Mahipat Ram would have yielded an implicit obedience to those orders of the Nizam which direct that he should not afford any assistance, encouragement or protection to Inkuppa Naik, Mohammed Raza Khan or any of their adherents The readiness with which he delivered up the son of Ped Naik, and his having at length released the family of Timmappa, his Arzee and proposition to the Minister, after he had been joined by Mohammed Raza Khan, the confidence with which Mr Palmer spoke of his desire to retire to Benares, and the disposition of Mahipat Ram, which was notoriously adverse to any measure that might be attended with personal danger, these considerations prevented either the Ministers or myself from suspecting that he would be guilty of such treachery and violence as to renounce all his engagements and join the public enemies of the state

36 It appeared from Mr Palmer's letters of the 31st January No 4, that Inkuppa Naik had manifested a desire to leave Mohammed Raza Khan, but was restrained by his troops on account of the arrears of pay that were due to them However Mohammed Raza

Shan was persuaded by Mahipat Ram to grant to Inkuppah an acquittance in full of all demands which enabled Inkuppah to escape from his camp and throw himself under the protection of Mr Gordon. He was received by Mr Gordon and sent under a guard to Hyderabad where he has since remained. The troops immediately attached to Inkuppah separated from Mohammed Raza Khan after Inkuppah's flight but it has since been ascertained that many of them were taken into the service of Mahipat Ram and were present at the late action before Shahpore.

37 In the same letter Mr Palmer writes that Mohammed Raza Khan had agreed to withdraw his troops but required that he should be allowed to remain at Shahpore three or four days for the arrangement of his private affairs. By this agreement Mohammed Raza Khan ought to have quitted Shahpore on the 3rd or 4th of February

38 When that period had elapsed and Mohammed Raza Khan had shown no disposal to move, Mr Palmer again called upon Mahipat Ram who on the 7th February solemnly engaged that Mohammed Raza Khan should positively quit Shahpore on the following day the 8th instant

39 On the 8th February Mr Palmer went out to Edgarh to meet Mr Gordon and whilst he was there Mr Gordon received the minister's orders and my letter recommending him to attack the party under Mohammed Raza Khan. As Mahipat Ram had made such solemn assurances that Mohammed Raza should quit Shahpore on that very day Mr Palmer prevailed upon Mr Gordon to remain at Edgarh during the night in order that a scrupulous adherence might be shown to the engagements, that had been entered into the preceding day. Mr Palmer resolved to return to Shahpore on the night of the 8th to communicate to Mahipat Ram the orders that had been received from Meer Allum and to point out the absolute necessity of immediately obliging Mohammed Raza Khan to leave the neighbourhood of Shahpore

40. Mr Palmer accordingly went to Shahpore accompanied by Rai Balchand the principal Mootesuddie with the Nizam's troops. Mr Palmer saw Mahipat Ram at 1 or 2 O'Clock of the morning of the 9th and called upon him in the strongest terms to remove Mohammed Raza Khan. Mr Palmer told him that he had no alternative left but to give Mr Palmer his dismissal or to compel the Sindee to quit Shahpore and Mr Palmer distinctly informed him that Mr Gordon would move forward to attack Mohammed Raza Khan on the 10th February. Mahipat Ram at length complied with Mr Palmer's requisition and Mohammed Raza Khan was induced to change his ground. When Mahipat Ram expressed some alarm lest the Nizam's troops should be employed against him, Mr Palmer gave him the strongest assurances of protection from the British Resident and entered into a written agreement with him upon which Mahipat Ram appeared satisfied and repeated his promises that Mohammed Raza Khan should move on the 10th.

41 When Mr. Palmer and Balchand were taking their leave of Mahipat Ram then persons were insulted and then lives menaced by armed men, in the service of Mahipat Ram and who appear to have been under the immediate direction of his nephew Shreepat Ram. Mr Palmer seems however, to have behaved with great coolness, determination and dignity, and was at length suffered to return to his tents. On the morning of the 10th Mr Palmer was informed that Mahipat Ram had embraced all his principal officers and that they had sworn to defend one another with their lives. At nine O Clock Mr Palmer required Mahipat Ram to fulfil his promise of dismissing Mohammed Raza Khan, but Mahipat Ram returned evasive answer as to the requisition manifestly with a view to amuse Mr Palmer and to gain time. Mr Palmer was then suddenly informed that Mahipat Ram had ordered his troops to move out of the fort. The life of Mr Palmer was again menaced by bodies of armed men and evasive answers were given to his repeated message for permission to leave Shahpoor. At length Mahipat Ram moved out with his troops and permitted Mr Palmer to leave Shahpoor. These several circumstances are described at length in Mr Palmer's letter (No 7), dated at Suntee the 11th February.

42 In reply to my letter to Mr Gordon, dated the 4th of February I received a letter from that Gentleman, dated the 11th of the month, from which it appears that he considered it imprudent to attempt the attack of Mohammed Raza Khan's party, as long as it should remain so strongly posted under the walls of the Pettah of Shahpoor. He therefore seems to have determined not to come to any action with the opposite party, until he should drive them out of their strong position. Mr Gordon likewise states his opinion that his Infantry would not be able to take the Pettah, and that no Army of the Nizam's would be able to carry the fortress of Shahpoor. Under these circumstances he recommends that a detachment from the Subsidiary force should march to the westward.

43 The tenor of the last advices from Mr Palmer and Mr. Gordon placed the situation of affairs at Shahpoor on a very different footing and it became necessary to consider what further measures should be adopted to compel Mahipat Ram to renounce his association with Mohammed Raza Khan Sindee and to destroy the parties that had been collected under their standards. The union of Mahipat Ram's force with that of Mohammed Raza Khan, the possession of such a fortress as that of Shahpoor, the treachery and insolence of Mahipat Ram's conduct, his pecuniary resources and extensive influence, all these considerations induced me to propose to the Minister to detach a portion of the Subsidiary Force to Shahpoor which in conjunction with the Nizam's troops would enable this Government either to compel Mahipat Ram to abide by his former proposals or to disperse the large band of freebooters that were collected under him and Mohammed Raza Khan.

44 The Minister acceded to my proposition though he did not consider it to be necessary for he persevered in thinking that Mahipat Ram would not dare to afford Mohammed Raza Khan open assistance and that if his troops should co-operate with those of the Sindhee the Nizam's detachment was perfectly capable of defeating their united force. While we were arguing this point a camel Hircarrah arrived with a short note to me from Mr Palmer dated at Edghur the 12th of February communicating intelligence of the complete defeat of the Nizam's detachment.

45 I beg leave to refer to a subsequent letter from Mr Palmer No 8 dated also the 12th February at Edghur for a more circumstantial account of this unfortunate action. I have since collected all the information that I could upon the subject and conceive the following to be a tolerably accurate statement of the affair. It is certain that on the 11th Mr Gordon had no intention of provoking an action with the enemy. However he thought proper on the morning of the 12th to move towards Shahpoor both for the purpose of showing the enemy that he would not decline an action and of ascertaining the nature of their position near Shahpoor. But every account I have received leads me to conclude that Mr Gordon did not intend to fight the enemy without he were previously attacked by them. His force consisted of 1300 Infantry with 5 Guns and 3000 Horse. He continued to advance towards Shahpoor till he came within sight of the enemy who had marched out of their encampment, advanced nearly two miles from the Pettah of Shahpoor and were drawn up in three distinct bodies. Mr Gordon immediately formed his line of Infantry and stationed all his horse on the right of his Infantry. When Mr Palmer who was considerably in front of the line with a small party of those observed a body of the enemy moving down towards him, he advanced and attacked it, but being opposed by very superior numbers he was compelled to retreat towards the line of Infantry. The enemy then opened their guns and nearly the whole of the Nizam's Cavalry abandoned their station retreated with much confusion and drew up about a mile in rear of the Infantry. Mr Gordon repeatedly ordered them to resume their station but no persuasion could induce them to advance towards the enemy and they finally quitted the field in great confusion. During their retreat they were harassed by the enemy's horse, and some of them were cut up and others taken prisoners. In the mean while Mr Gordon though so shamefully abandoned by nearly all the horse, advanced with great spirit and resolution, drove back the Infantry that was opposed to him, took their guns and captured the howdahed Elephant of Mahipat Ram. But the infantry advanced with no great regularity and were much fatigued and oppressed by their exertions. However at this time it appeared probable that the enemy would retire and Mohammed Raza Khan had been taking some preparatory measures for a retreat. A party of Arabs who were on the left continuing to annoy the Infantry the Battalion on the left commanded by Mr Bridges attacked the Arabs in a tumultuous manner and the whole line pressed to the left without order or regularity.

This movement completed the confusion of the Infantry, they saw themselves surrounded by large parties of horse, they were panic struck and listened to no command, almost all their European officers were killed or wounded, and the whole line was soon completely dispersed. The Officers killed were Messrs Bellan, Pearson and Borta Burgh, the wounded were Mr Bridges and a Portuguese of the name of Ioachem. Mr Palmer and another Mr Burgh luckily escaped though they were closely pursued to some distance.

46 I have now the melancholy task of relating the cruel fate of Mr Gordon. I have not been able to ascertain whether he was wounded or not during the action, but it is certain that he was murdered, soon after the dispersion of the Infantry. It was at first generally reported that he was killed by Shreepat Ram, but there is now every reason to conclude that Raja Mahipat Ram committed this barbarous deed. The native orderly who attended Mr Gordon, and who is now at Hyderabad, has given me so circumstantial an account of the transaction, that it is scarcely possible to refuse credit to his deliberate testimony. I thought proper to call upon this man for a deposition to the fact, and I have the honour to enclose a copy of that deposition, which was taken in my presence.

47 The sudden and shameful retreat of nearly the whole of the Nizam's cavalry, at the commencement of the action, and before they had suffered from the fire of the enemy, has afforded just grounds for suspicion, that they were guilty of something worse than cowardice. But I should be unwilling to believe that there existed such deep treachery, in so large a body of troops, which were selected for service by Meer Allum and Chandu Lal, and which belong to the lines of the most respectable commanders under this Government, until I had obtained the most satisfactory and unequivocal proof of their guilt. I have not yet been able to form any other conclusion than that which naturally results from their shameful conduct, which may indeed have proceeded from cowardice, as well as from treachery.

48 It is reported and generally believed that Mahipat Ram had issued orders that no Englishman should be spared, he betrayed the greatest anxiety to seize the person of Mr Palmer, he had given orders that the other prisoners should be put to death, and they owe their preservation from this barbarous sentence to the human and intrepid interference of a Jemadar of Horse named Shaikh Ilahi Buksh. Mahipat Ram celebrated his victory with every circumstance of triumph and exultation. He fired off all the guns at Shahpoor and distributed rice and sugar to the troops and the inhabitants of that place. He spoke to the native prisoners in the highest strain of insolence and asserted that if the yellow Umbaree (meaning the Nizam) came to Shahpoor, he would drive it back to Hyderabad.

49 The Minister appeared much distressed and ashamed at the result of the action for he had just before spoken in term of highest confidence of the probable conduct of the Nizam's Cavalry. He agreed with me that not a single moment was to be lost in detaching a large portion of the Subsidiary Force against the insurgents. I requested him to communicate immediate information of the event to the Nizam and to state that I should require an audience of His Highness the next morning. In the mean while I wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Montresor desiring that he would call upon me. I made the Colonel acquainted with all the circumstances that led to the late action and I furnished him with what information I possessed of the numbers and description of the enemy. After some deliberation we determined that the detachment from the Subsidiary force should consist of the two Regiments of Cavalry with their Gallopper Guns five Companies of H M 33rd Regiment two Battalions of Native Infantry with a Brigade of 12 Horses and 3 Brigades 6 Horses together with a due proportion of pioneers Military stores.

50 The next morning I waited upon the Nizam to whom Meer Allum communicated the particulars of the late action and insisted upon the necessity of immediately employing the most decisive measures for reducing the power of Mahipat Ram. His Highness appeared much astonished at the intelligence but did not express any indignation or concern at the defeat of his troops and shameful conduct of his Cavalry. Indeed if it be fair to judge of his feelings by the expression of his countenance the intelligence appeared to excite rather an emotion of pleasure than one of concern in the mind of His Highness. But His Highness was made sensible of the propriety of employing the British troops to quell the Rebellion and readily consented to the proposal. His Highness enquired what number of troops would proceed to Shahpoor and what number would remain at Hyderabad. After I had communicated that information His Highness directed the Minister to send some troops of this state whose courage could be depended upon and to select a proper person to command them. I soon took my leave for the purpose of issuing my orders to Lieutenant Colonel Montresor and of preparing for the equipment of the troops.

51 Every exertion was employed to equip the detachment in the most complete manner. Colonel Montresor proposed to assume the personal command of the detachment, to which of course I readily assented. On the 19th February the troops moved out of their cantonments and made their first march towards Shahpoor on the 22nd instant.

52. I shall take the earliest opportunity of laying before your Lordship a copy of the transactions with which I furnished Colonel Montresor for the general regulation of his conduct on this delicate and important service.

53. I lost no time in directing Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to collect all the troops he could at Basim and to be prepared to move the southward in case Mahipat Ram should venture to make

his way to the province of Belar and as it may be necessary to Lt Colonel Doveton to co-operate in the destruction of the insurgents I judged it expedient to place that officer under the immediate orders of Lieut Colonel Montresor

54 I likewise communicated intelligence of the late event to the Resident at Poona to whom I took the liberty to suggest that orders should be issued by the Peshwa's Ministers to the Mahratta Commanders near the frontier, directing them to attack any part of the enemy's troops, that should escape from the Nizam's territories and enter the dominions of His Highness the Peshwa

55 I also conveyed information of the state of affairs at Shahpoor to the Honourable the Governor in Council of Fort St George and to the Officer Commanding the Ceded districts

Letter No 8—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Elphinstone dated the 24th April In this enclosure Sydenham reports the whereabouts of Mahipat Ram and suggests the possibility of inducing the Sindhia and Holkar to attack him because he carries with him a treasure of 12 lacks The family of Mahipat Ram in Hyderabad had been arrested and removed to a safe place and all their cash and jewellery had been confiscated He dwells upon the possible attitude of the Nizam and others in Hyderabad who are not very pleased with the British domination, in case Mahipat Ram attempts an attack on Hyderabad territories with Holkar. For the time being he suggests the withdrawal of the Subsidiary troops from the forward positions they had taken in courses of their pursuit of Mahipat Ram, who had crossed the Nerbudda.

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hyderabad, the 21st April 1808

The last advices from Lieutenant Colonel Montresor, confirm the intelligence of the escape of Mahipat Ram and the insurgents On the 11th of April they had passed Shendwa, and were proceeding towards the river Nerbudda It is generally believed that Mahipat Ram will join Holkar, if he should receive any encouragement from that Chieftain to whom he has repeatedly written I have thought it advisable to address letters to Holkar and have

done myself the honour to forward copies of them to the Secretary in the Persian Department. I have likewise communicated to the Resident with Sindhir the most particular information of the conduct and proceedings of Mahipat Ram and copies of my letters dated respectively the 22nd of March and 19th of April will have been submitted to your Lordship's notice.

2 If Mahipat Ram should not receive encouragement from Holkar it is supposed that he will either proceed to Jaipur or accompany Mohammed Raza Khan to Sind but these are merely suppositions for it is impossible to anticipate the movements of a man who has been driven in ruin and distress from his own country is completely in the power of a small band of barbarous freebooters who has no settled plans and who will be reduced to seek safety wherever he can find it

3 From the best information that I have been able to procure, the present force with Mahipat Ram does not exceed fifteen hundred men chiefly Sindees with a few Arabs. He has with his treasure to the amount of about 12 Lacks of rupees consisting chiefly of Gold coins and jewels. He is completely at the mercy of the Sindees and if any does not feel very comfortable to be in the power of such friends. The Sindees are brutal insolent daring and treacherous. They claim the merit of having saved the lives of Mahipat Ram and his nephew and as the future safety of those persons must depend upon their services they will not be very moderate in their demands of recompense for their past exertions or of payment for their future services. They are constantly clamorous for pay and rewards and as Mahipat Ram is completely in their power it will not be easy to satisfy them. I do not believe that Mohammed Raza Khan has any personal attachment to Mahipat Ram considerations of personal safety would induce him to support Mahipat Ram as long as they remained in the Deccan and were closely pursued by the British troops. But Mohammed Raza Khan who prides himself on his valour and his birth and affects to call himself the Prince of Sind can have no great respect for Mahipat Ram who has no personal courage, and is a mere moot esquidde of a very low description. Indeed Mohammed Raza Khan asserted and exercised a complete superiority before the action at Shahpoor. He took the whole of the large contribution from Sholapoor for himself and his troops. He received a personal gift of one lack of rupees the day before the action and he collected more than 70,000 Rupees before they quitted Shahpoor. During their march to the northward he has directed all their movements. Sreepat Ram has been actively employed but Mahipat Ram suffered himself to be carried from place to place, deserted by his confidential friends and nearly all his own adherents exercising authority and suffering great distress of mind. As long as Mahipat Ram has any treasure he may still maintain some influence but the very circumstance of his having treasure may expose him to the treachery of the Sindees and the hostility of freebooters to the northward of the Nerbudda.

4 It has probably occurred to your Lordship to urge Jeswant Rao Holkar to attack Mahipat Ram, to plunder his treasure and to seize his person. Perhaps Dowlat Rao Sindhia who is not very rich in treasure, may be induced to plunder Mahipat Ram. It can scarcely be supposed that they would give him encouragement or protection as they both seem equally poor and equally intent on raising money. The treasure with Mahipat Ram will be a great prize to either of them, and they may at once enrich themselves and render an acceptable service to the British Government.

5 Besides the treasure which he carries with him, Mahipat Ram is generally supposed to possess considerable funds distributed in different parts of India. It is said that he has many lodged with Soucars at Poona, Surat and Benares. He has Lacks of rupees in Company's paper, but I do not know whether it will be legal to restore the property to this Government. The Soucars at Hyderabad have signed a paper in which they agree to the confiscation of all their property in event of its being proved that they have in their charge any of Mahipat Ram's money.

6 As soon as Mahipat Ram and Sreepat Ram had been proclaimed rebels to authority of the Nizam, I suggested to the Minister the propriety of placing their families in strict confinement. The Minister easily the consent of the Nizam to this measure, and His Highness particularly directed that Amanat Ram should be called upon for a statement of his and that of Mahipat Ram's family. A strong guard was placed over their dwelling, and Amanat Ram furnished a statement of money, jewels and personal property amounting to five Lacks of rupees. His Highness ordered the whole of the money and property to be sent to the Treasury. Amanat Ram accordingly paid one Lack and seventy thousand Rupees and sent the jewels and property to the Minister. The principal branches of the family consisting of Amanat Ram, Venkaty Ram, the son of Mahipat Ram about nine years old and the wives of Mahipat Ram and Sreepat Ram, are to be placed in close confinement in the fortress of Ferosnagar. The Minister has permitted the family to take with them a few servants their common ornaments, and some of their domestic utensils, and he intends to allow them a decent maintenance. All the Jaghirs, Pensions and other grants, which were enjoyed by Mahipat Ram and his family will be resumed and the house in the city on which Mahipat Ram had expended a large sum of money will be given to one of the Omrahs at Court. If your Lordship should judge it expedient to require that the family of Mahipat Ram be confined in the Company's territories, I should imagine that the Nizam would not object to such a proposal. This step might operate as a powerful restraint upon the future conduct of Mahipat Ram, it would produce a considerable effect upon the minds of our enemies at this Court, and it would at once secure us against the intrigues of Mahipat Ram's family. Amanat Ram has long carried on the intercourse between the Nizam and Mahipat Ram, he possesses considerable tact and cunning and his whole attention is directed to clandestine intrigue.

7 The next object to attend to is the removal of such persons as we know are favourably inclined towards Mahipat Ram and will continue to correspond with him. Of these persons Raja Sukroodur is assuredly the most dangerous. It has long been the Minister's intention to deprive him of the districts which are at present under his charge. The balance of revenue which stands against him and for which he is accountable exceeds 16 Lacks of Rupees. This circumstance will afford a just ground to require his presence at Hyderabad to settle his accounts. But it is not so certain that he will obey the Minister's order to come to the presence and therefore I propose to recommend that the measure of ordering him to Hyderabad shall be suspended until there are troops near Beer to enforce his obedience to the Minister's command. If your Lordship should think proper to authorize my withdrawing any of the British troops that are at present in advance their return to Hyderabad will enable me to assist the Minister in depriving Rajah Sukroodur of his present extensive employment and in placing those districts in charge of some officer on whom the Minister can place reliance.

8 We have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of Rajah Rao Rumba and Noorul Omrah who both rejected the overtures of Mahipat Ram with indignation and contempt. Indeed it does not appear that Mahipat Ram made his overtures after the action at Shahpoor. Rao Rumba immediately communicated them to the Minister and Noorul Omrah directed his agent to assure me that he would not hold any correspondence or intercourse with Mahipat Ram.

9. It is generally supposed that Moontizimood Dowlah the Kildedar of Dowlatabad is favourably disposed towards Mahipat Ram and that he corresponded with Mahipat Ram through Assaram the father of Mahipat Ram's wife. But this Assaram is now in confinement and will be sent to some fort. Moontizimood Dowlah is described to be an ignorant profligate and vicious man and extremely hostile to the British nation. It would certainly be desirable that the fortress of Dowlatabad should be in the custody of some person less avowedly inimical to us but it will be difficult to persuade the Nizam to remove Moontizimood Dowlah from that situation without your Lordship should particularly request His Highness to do so.

10 There are some other persons of inferior condition who are said to be in the interests of Mahipat Ram and whom it will be advisable to confine or remove from Berar. These persons are Futteh Chand the Serestadar at Aurangabad the son of Gangaram Pandit the Naib of Ellichpoor Moostufa Yar Jung and Sadoolla Khan Pathan commanders in Berar. Futteh Chand will shortly be brought to Hyderabad the son of Gangaram Pandit is already in confinement and the Minister proposes to withdraw the parties of the two Pathan commanders from Berar.

11 The conduct of Nawab Soobhan Khan has long been very suspicious. He indulges in a very strong language against the British nation and has manifested great reluctance to obey the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh. But that this may proceed from his character, which is turbulent, sullen and naughty, I do not believe, that he is attached to Mahipat Ram, whom he used to treat with great insolence and I have not heard that he ever corresponded with Mahipat Ram since the dismissal of that person from Berar.

12 As it is probable that Mahipat Ram has crossed the Nerbudda and has proceeded to the northward, I am anxious to be furnished with instructions respecting the future disposition of the Subsidiary Force. The troops at present in advance consist of the 1st, 2nd and 8th Regiments of Cavalry, 5 Companies of H. M. 33rd Regiment nearly the whole of the artillery and 4th Battalion of Sepoys. The 4th Regiment of Cavalry is by this time between Gulbarga and Beer and the Battalion of Sepoys, which marched from Belhary may be expected in the cantonment of Secundrabad about the 22nd of the month.

13 I have not the means of determining what measures Jeswant Rao Holkar is likely to adopt to oppose the rebels in Khandesh. I perceive by Mr Mercer's dispatch No. 13 to your Lordship, that Holkar has announced his intention of coming to the southward for the purpose of quelling the insurrection of Wahid Ali Khan Bungaish, and Dadun Khan and their associates. But I have not learnt that he has commenced his march from Banpoorah, and his force is described to be inconsiderable. If Holkar should actually come to the southward he will probably find great difficulty in overcoming the rebels in the mountainous country along the north side of the Tapti. If the rebels should have preconceived any system of co-operation with the Bheels who infest that mountainous tract their resistance may be very destructive to the troops of Holkar.

14 With respect to the future conduct of Holkar the following questions appear to deserve consideration. 1st It is possible that Holkar, in the present reduced state of his finances and military power, should violate his peace with the British Government. 2nd Is it probable that Mahipat Ram should induce Holkar to proceed to hostilities? It is evident that Holkar must conclude an amicable arrangement with the rebels in Khandesh, or destroy them before he can venture to commence hostilities with the Company. 3rd Is it probable that Holkar will succeed in quelling the rebellion in Khandesh and Mhysoor either by persuasion or force? 4th Will Holkar attempt to attack the British Government alone, and unassisted by other powers? Is it probable that Sindhia or the Rajah of Berar should again combine with Holkar after their experience of his character and result of the last confederacy?

15 It may indeed be supposed that Holkar would expect to be joined by the southern Mahrattah Jagheerdars, and that he may succeed, through the intrigues of Mahipat Ram, to excite an

insurrection in the Nizam's territories against the British Government. I have mentioned these two circumstances because they are often spoken of at this place. But it must be observed that the possessions of the Southern Jagheerdars lay at a great distance from the point at which hostilities would take place that they are open to the attack of the British troops from Mysore and the ceded districts and that the Poona Subsidiary Force would be ready to intercept the junction of the southern Jagheerdars with an invading enemy from the northward of the southern Jagheerdars the family of the Patwardhans is only one that appears likely to renounce its connection with the Peshwa and to lend its sanction to a confederacy which must be directed against the Peshwa as well as the British Government. I have ventured merely to touch upon this topic because it is often spoken of at this place. I do not pretend to determine how far such confederacy is probable and I do not possess the means of judging of the disposition or of the southern Jagheerdars.

16 The tendency of nearly all my dispatches will show your Lordship that I am not disposed to place any confidence in the friendship or constancy of the present Nizam. But I am not prepared to say whether His Highness's indisposition towards his alliance with the British Government proceeds so much from his own unbiased sentiments as from the impressions which he has received from Mahipat Ram and Ragoutam Rao. His Highness scarcely ever thinks for himself on the most trifling subject and his sentiments and feelings on all subjects are generally directed by those who surrounded him. In the maintenance of his first impression he is very capricious. If left to himself or assailed by flattery and induced by arguments he can be soon prevailed upon to relinquish any notice. But if his sentiments be opposed or combated he becomes obstinate and every attempt to reason him out of a notion only serves to confirm it more strongly in his mind. His disinclination towards the British Government appears to me to have proceeded from the causes one, an ambition which has been industriously excited by his companions and parasites to restore the house of Asophia to its former splendour reputation and power. The other an alarm has been inculcated by our enemies that the British Government intends gradually to subvert his authority and to seize his possessions. It is true that their motives are in themselves almost contradictory but the fact is that the character of the present Nizam is an assemblage of contradictions. The alarm with which he is impressed, has been increased by the consciousness of his unpopularity and by the circulation of a prophecy that he is to be the last reigning prince of the Asophia family.

17 But though the Nizam should never feel any friendship for us and however he may be inclined to release himself from the obligations of his alliance, there are certain parts of his character which will restrain him from proceeding to any desperate extremity and will always render him a most contemptible antagonist.

The parts of his character which disqualify him for any dangerous enterprize are his timidity, indolence, irresolution, parsimony and his total want of every popular quality I do not believe that there is a single Amir of any respectability or influence who feels the slightest attachment to His Highness The populace abuse him without reserve or decency

17-A The sentiments respecting the alliance amongst the greater part of the community at the court appear to me to be nearly these The few men of rank and respectability who are capable of reflection appear to admit that the late Nizam had no other means of preserving his dominions than by a close connection with the British Government To that connection they attribute the security of these dominions from the ambition of Tippoo Sultan and the rapacity of the Mahrattas These persons also admit that the alliance with the British Government ensured the internal tranquillity and repose of these dominions at a period when every other part of India was convulsed with war They appear to be sensible of the extent of our power and resources and of the inability of any confederacy amongst the remaining states of India to overcome us They therefore deprecate all hostilities with a nation to whom every war has terminated in an accession of strength But these reflections are confined to a very few persons A greater number admit that there is no prospect during the reign of the present Nizam to subvert the influence which we have established in the Deccan They are therefore resigned to the present condition of affairs although they look forward to a change of things The turbulent and active are discontented because they are obliged to be quiet, and because, they delight in scenes of disturbances, treachery and plunder The lower orders of Mussalmans detest and abuse us, because we are Christians and are powerful The cultivators of the soil, the manufacturers, artizans and merchants groan under a load of exactions and oppressions and would willingly be transferred to the British Government But under a despotic Government their voice is very feeble Very few men of any respectability or influence would combine in an insurrection directed by Mahipat Ram or sanctioned by the Nizam The authority of His Highness is propped by the support of the Subsidiary force and the alliance with the British Government If these supports were removed only for a week the present Nizam would lose his throne, without bloodshed and almost without a struggle

18 I have ventured to obtrude these observations on your Lordship's notice, in order that your Lordship may judge, how far an insurrection is at all probable in the present state of things, or how far any insurrections likely to be dangerous

19 It will remain for the wisdom of your Lordship to determine whether the general aspect of affairs to the northward requires THE MAINTENANCE OF SO LARGE A FORCE IN as is at present in advance As far as the intrigues or designs of Mahipat Ram may be supposed to extend I am of opinion that

it is only necessary to add 2 Regiments of Cavalry and the horse artillery to the Detachment which is at present in the immediate command of Lieutenant Colonel Doveton. That force added to the Nizam's reformed infantry and a selected body of Horse under the Nabob Salabat Khan appears to me to provide amply for the security of the northern frontier against the incursions of Mahipat Ram and the Pindaries or other adherents whom he may seduce to join his standard.

This arrangement will admit of my withdrawing from Berar 1 Regiment of Cavalry 2 Battalions of Sepoys the Detachment of the 33rd Regiment and the Ordnance and Artillery should propose that the 4th and the Eighth Regiments of Cavalry be kept in Berar that the 2nd Regiment returned to the Poona Subsidiary Force and the 1st Regiment be drawn to Hyderabad. If it should not appear necessary to keep any extra Corps in these territories the 1st Regiment of Cavalry will be the first for relief.

20 As the Rainy season is approaching I shall be anxious to be honoured with your Lordship's instructions as soon as possible with a view to prepare for the arrangement which I have suggested. I shall direct Lieutenant Colonel Montresor to return to the neighbourhood of Aurangabad. If your Lordship should approve of my suggestions Lieutenant Colonel Montresor will be at hand to cross the Godavery before that river becomes unfavourable and if your Lordship should require the whole force to be kept in advance or that circumstances should appear to render that arrangement expedient Colonel Montresor will be at a convenient station to pass the rainy season.

21 As His Majesty's 33rd Regiment is much reduced in numbers and has been three years in the Deccan I intend to recommend to the Madras Government to relieve it by a stronger Regiment immediately after the Rains. I understand that such a measure has been in contemplation for some time past and that the 59th Regiment is the Corps intended to relieve the 33rd.

22 By the plan which I have taken the liberty to offer to your Lordship's consideration the force that will be collected at this capital during the rains and immediately after them will consist of one Regiment of Cavalry H. M. 33rd Regiment and 5 Battalions of Native Infantry.

23 If the Detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Doveton be augmented with 2nd Regiments of Cavalry and the Horse Artillery it will be proper that a Quarter Master of Brigade be appointed to the force under Lieutenant Colonel Doveton.

Letter No. 9—Sydenham intimates that Meer Allum was reluctant to allow Bhonsla's troops enter Berar in pursuit of the Pindaries. The proposals of Meer Allum for the destruction of the Pindaries, the unsettled condition of affairs in Khandesh and the disposition of the British troops and Nizam's troops in Berar to meet the incursions of the Pindaries are matters dealt with in this letter

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad, the 28th October 1808

I have been furnished by Mr Edmonstone with a copy of his letter to your address, dated the 18th of July and I have held frequent conversations with Meer Allum on the subject of permitting the troops of the Rajah of Berar to pursue the Pindaries through the territories of His Highness the Nizam

2 Although Meer Allum admits the necessity of adopting every practicable measure of destroying the Pindaries, and although he promises that no exertion on the part of this Government shall be omitted to repel and chastize those common marauders, I perceive that he is extremely reluctant to consent to the proposition of granting a free passage to the Rajah of Berar's troops in the pursuit of the Pindaries, through the territories of the Nizam. His principal objections to this proposal appear to me to arise from an apprehension that the Rajah of Berar's troops will commit considerable depredations in the Nizam's territories, and that being once permitted to enter these territories in pursuit of the Pindaries, they will often avail themselves of that pretext to repeat their incursions. He therefore wishes that each Government should confine itself to the defence of its own possessions, and that the troops of the one should not be suffered to enter into the territories of the other. Although it is probable that Meer Allum may at length be induced to accede to an arrangement, which has received the sanction of the Governor-General yet I have occasion to know that he will not easily relinquish the opinion which I have stated

3 At one time indeed he proposed that a body of the Nizam's troops should be united to the Bhonsla's Army, and that they should advance to attack the Pindaries in their haunts near the Tapti and Nerbudda. But there appeared to me many objections to this proposal, and indeed I soon discovered that it was suggested by the Meer only to get rid of the other plan

4 I should suppose that the ministers of the Rajah of Berar would give the most satisfactory assurances that their troops should not commit any depredations on the Nizam's possessions, and that they should not enter the Nizam's territories excepting in pursuit of the Pindaries, and I imagine that the Ministers would not object to make good such losses as might be sustained by the inhabitants of these territories from the passage of the Bhonsla's troops, but

it will be difficult to distinguish between the depredations of the Pindaries and the acts committed by their pursuers and the Officers of this Government will certainly ascribe all their losses to the latter in the hope of having them remunerated

5 It will probably occur to you to communicate to the Ministers at Nagpur the apprehensions expressed by Meer Allum and their replies will perhaps enable us to afford such assurances to Meer Allum as may remove the violent objection which he has hitherto stated to the proposition

6 The late movements and supposed designs of the rebels in Khandesh and of Holkar's manager of the District of Umber render it of much importance to the tranquillity of the western part of Berar that the British Detachment should continue in its present position near Jalna. The rebels have long threatened an attack upon Holkar's places near the frontier and ultimately on the district of Umber which is situated within the frontier. An agent from Dadun Khan Asud Ali Khan Bungaish who was deputed to Rajah Govind Buksh put a direct question to Lieutenant Colonel Doveton "whether those Chieftains would be permitted to attack the province of Umber". As Lieutenant Colonel Doveton acquainted the Agent in reply to his question that a passage for that purpose could not be admitted if it is probable that they will abstain from the attack of Umber as long as the British Detachment may be in that neighbourhood but it is difficult to foresee what they might be induced to do if the Detachment were drawn from Jalna and stationed on the Eastern frontier

7 On the other hand Holkar's Naib at Umber has collected from 2 to 3,000 men for the defence of that district. He has entered into term of agreement with Kesari Singh a principal leader of Bandittees, and he is prepared to resist any attack that may be made upon Umber by the rebels from Khandesh. Rajah Govind Buksh and the Ministers here have received intelligence to which they attach a great degree of credit that the Naib of Umber had concerted a plan with the different Naicks (of) the Bheels to desolate the western part of Berar but the presence of the British Detachment at Jalna has hitherto restrained the Bheels, and I trust that some arrangement will soon be made to prevent their becoming dangerous

8 As long as affairs remain in their present unsettled state, it may be attended with great inconvenience to the interests of this Government to alter the position of the British Detachment, which position is admirably calculated to keep both the rebels in Khandesh and the Naib of Umber in check, to restrain the depredations of the Bheels and to watch the movement of anybody of troops, that may come from the northward by way of Burhanpur

9 But as long as the British Detachment retains its position near Jalna it cannot be employed with any prospect of success against the Pindaries, who might confine their incursion to the

North-Eastern frontier of Berar The distance from Jalna to Ellichpur cannot be less than 160 miles The incursions of the Pindaries are so sudden and their movements are so rapid, that it would always be in their power to retire from the Nizam's territories and escape with their booty, before the British Troops could approach them The detachment might always be prepared for movement, and would be equipped for long and rapid marches, but without the Pindaries await their approach(?), it would be impossible to overtake those freebooters

10 Lieutenant Colonel Doveton has suggested that the Nāwab Salabat Khan should be posted somewhere near the Tank with 1,500 horse, 2 Battalions of Infantry, and 4 guns, and that smaller parties of troops should be advanced towards Hiwar-khed and Sindurjana The force, under so active and enterprising a commander as Salabat Khan might keep the Pindaries in check until the British Detachment should move to the Eastward There is a considerable body of the Nizam's troops at Malkapur, so that if the Pindaries should attempt to make their way from the Wardha towards Buihanpur, it is probable that either the Nizam's troops or the British Detachment might succeed in bringing the Pindaries to close action, and in giving them a severe defeat If on the other hand they return to the Eastward and cross the Wardha it will be in the power of the Bhonsla's troops to overtake them.

11 On the whole I do not think it would be prudent, under the present aspect of affairs, to alter the position of the British Detachment, but as soon as the rainy season is over, Lt Colonel Doveton may be instructed to hold the whole of his cavalry and a portion of his infantry in a state of readiness for immediate movement, and on his receiving intelligence of any menaced invasion of the Pindaries, he might advance by rapid marches to overtake them, or expel them from the Nizam territories If the Pindaries should move to the westward, it is probable that Lieutenant Col Doveton will have it in his power to overtake them, if they should cross the Wardha and move towards Nagpur, the troops of the Rajah of Berar will be able to bring them to close action

12 As soon as I have been favoured with your sentiments upon these subjects I will issue the necessary instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Doveton, and will communicate to Meer Allum such assurances as the Ministers of the Rajah of Berar may be willing to afford respecting the conduct of His Highness's troops in the Nizam's territories

Letter No 10 — This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins dated 25th August, 1808 Sydenham reports to the Governor-General the rebellion of one Govind Pant Tattiah, Naib of Amber in Khandesh, and a servant of Holkar. He discusses all the consequences of this rebellion and the attitude that the British should assume in this matter.

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—THE RIGHT HON BLL LORD MINTO GOVERNOR
GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hyderabad the 25th August 18c8

The several papers which I have done myself the honour to communicate to the Secretary in the Political Department together with the dispatches from Poona will have made your Lordship acquainted with the condition and proceedings of the rebels in Khandesh. There are various accounts of their force but taking a medium of those which are likely to be the most authentic, I do not estimate their combined force to exceed 4,000 or 4,500 men of which about 1,600 or 2,000 may be cavalry. They are likewise described to have 10 or 12 pieces of cannon.

2. The Naib of Amber has succeeded in regaining possession of from the Dadun Khan's people who retired from that place, on finding they were not capable of defending it against the troops of the Naib of Amber. But it does not appear that Dadun Khan and his associates have altogether relinquished their designs on the possession of Holkar situated near the It is generally expected that they will return to the attack of Seogaum with the whole of their force. If they succeed in retaking that place they will probably extend their progress and the consequence will be that struggling warfare will be carrying on near the Nizam's frontier and probably within its limits. This is species of warfare which will be very destructive to the Nizam's possessions not only by the unavoidable depredations of both parties in His Highness's country but by affording employment to the numerous Banditti who infest that part of the country. The Naib of Amber has already taken into his service a Naik of the name of Keysree Singh who sought refuge in Amber from the pursuit of the Nizam's troops and there is little doubt that both he and the rebels will willingly encourage the leaders of Banditti from whom they may expect assistance.

3. For some time past the Naib of Amber Govind Pant Tattiah has behaved with great insolence and has shown no disposition to perform those offices of good neighbourhood which this Government has a right to expect from the servant of a Chieftain with whom it is at peace. He has permitted persons from his province to plunder some villages on the Nizam's country. He pays no attention to the repeated complaints and remonstrances of Rajah Govind Buksh and he has given protection and employment to Keysree Singh a leader of the Banditti who had plundered all the Nizam's country bordering on the Godavery from Nanded to Masulipatam.

4 As the Naib of Amber does not appear to consider himself under the authority of Khandu Pant, Holkar's Vakeel at Poona, I have been by the particular and repeated of Meer Allum. to address a letter to Jeswant Rao Holkar on the subject of the Naib's conduct and proceedings and I do myself the honour to submit to your Lordship a copy and translation of that letter

5 When Colonel Montresor was marching through the Amber Province, he received a letter from the Naib, written on a very irritating improper force and conveying a . . . for which, there was not the slightest foundation To this extraordinary letter Colonel replied with great moderation (No 2 and 3) I have the honour to enclose translation of the letters which passed on the occasion

6 It is scarcely possible to ascertain the real situation and views of the Rebels in Khandesh At one period their open hostility to Holkar, compelled that Chieftain to the desperate measures of having Kashi Rao Holkar murdered They laid waste all the country belonging to Holkar near the river Taptee They are described to continue levying the contributions with great rigour and cruelty It would appear from many papers of intelligence that their proceedings had excited considerable indignation and uneasiness in the mind of Holkar The Naib of Amber and Bukht Ram the Killedar of Talnair have repeatedly solicited assistance from the northward Ballaram Sait and Mahipat Ram are stated to have urged Holkar to send a body of troops to oppose the rebels, and it is said that Mir Khan offered to detach a part of his force for that purpose

7 Later accounts indeed mention that the rebels have made their submission which has been favourably received by Jeswant Rao Holkar, and this circumstance is particularly stated in Holkar's letter to Khandu Pant, which was communicated to Colonel Close But the intelligence from Bampoorah does not warrant conclusion that either the rebels were sincere in the submission, or that Holkar actually them to be so Neither does it appear that the rebels themselves altered their conduct, or avowed the reconciliation with Holkar

8 The Rebels find much difficulty in supporting their troops, who are described to be in the greatest distress They may therefore not feel themselves sufficiently strong to resist the authority of Holkar if that Chieftain either marched to the southward in person, or could send large force to quell the Rebellion In the mean while it is probable that absolute necessity will oblige the rebels to continue to subsist their troops on the plunder of Holkar's provinces If Holkar should march a force to the southward the conduct of the rebels will probably depend upon the opinion which

they may entertain of their own strength and upon the degree of confidence which they conceive may be placed upon the assurances and promises of Holkar

9 On the other hand it does not seem probable that Holkar will be able to detach a considerable force to the southward at all events not till after the rainy season is over It may therefore suit the interests and is sufficiently consistent with the usual policy of Holkar to affect a degree of confidence in the submission of the rebels until he can adopt some decided measure against them

10 As long as the rebels shall confine their operations to places beyond the Nizam's frontier it appears to me that we have no cause for interference on their proceedings But they cannot attack the province of Amber without passing through the Nizam's territories and I do not think it just to grant a free passage through the Nizam's territories to the rebels of a Government with which we are at peace and preserve a friendly intercourse. If the rebels should be permitted to pass through the Nizam's territories for the avowed purpose of attacking the province of Amber it is probable that the ingenuity of Holkar would discover in that proceeding a justification of his own conduct towards Mahipat Ram which conduct at present is unjustifiable. Holkar might reason in this manner You require that Mahipat Ram a rebel to you should be delivered up by me and at the same time you allow rebels to my Government to pass through the territories of that ally for the purpose of seizing my possessions A free passage to those rebels might indeed be considered a fair retaliation for the conduct of Holkar in receiving, protecting encouraging and employing a rebel who had been expelled by force from the territories of his sovereign But the propriety of such a measure will depend upon the light which your Lordship in Council may be disposed to view the conduct of Holkar towards Mahipat Ram and his nephew

11 It may be presumed that after the conclusion of the rains Jeswant Rao Holkar will adopt some means of putting down the rebellion which has been suffered to continue so long unopposed and almost unobserved. If by the assurances and promises of Holkar Dadun Khan Wahed Ali Khan Bangash and Mahipat Rao Holkar should be induced to return to the duties of allegiance, all inconvenience and danger will be at an end. But if it be necessary to employ force to crush the rebellion it is prudent that we should be prepared for operations of a much more serious and critical nature than a mere contest for superiority between Holkar and the rebels

12 Holkar may either march to the Deccan in person or detach a considerable part of his Army to re-establish his authority in Khandesh The anxiety which Holkar has always manifested to retain his influence amongst the Rajput states in Hindustan and

to prevent that influence from falling into the hands of Dowlat Rao, renders it improbable that Holkar should come to the Deccan in person. The late success of Sindhia's troops over the Jaipur Army is an additional to keep Holkar at Banpoorah or even to take him to the northward, for the purpose of counteracting the effects of the late victory obtained by Sindhia's troops. Indeed many of the late Akhbars state that Holkar had resolved on the marching to the assistance of the Rajah of Jaipore. If the treasury of Sindhia were better furnished his Ministers united, his troops obedient, and if his personal character were consistent with bold proceedings Sindhia might give a severe blow to the powers and influence of the Holkar by pursuing the success obtained by Bapooji Sindhia. But neither the character nor the resources of Sindhia afford any expectation, that he will derive a permanent superiority from the late victory. However, it will probably require the presence of Holkar in Hindustan to prevent Sindhia from obtaining the ascendancy, and I therefore conclude, that Holkar will not come to the southward.

13 But it may be in his power to detach a portion of his Army to the province of Khandesh. Although the body of Regular troops may be small, yet it will probably be joined by a host of Pindharies and other freebooters, who wander along the Nerbudah, and are always ready to join any expedition from which plundering be expected. It is possible that Mahipat Ram or Sreepat Ram, or Mohammed Raza Khan may be employed on this expedition, and that the troops which were lately expelled from the country may return to it. Whether these troops be opposed to the rebels, or whether they unite, it will be necessary to watch their movements with constant vigilance, and adopt every measure of precaution for the security of the province of Berar.

14 In the event of the actual approach of a body of the Holkar's troops towards the frontier of Berar, I beg to enquire which line of conduct your Lordship would wish me to pursue. I am anxious to learn whether the whole, or any part of such troops is to be permitted through the Nizam's territories to Amber. Whether the Naib of Amber is to be allowed to increase his force or to give protection and employment to the Naicks who reside in the Nizam's dominions, and who may from time to time seek refuge in the province of Amber. If Mahipat Ram or his nephew Sreepat Ram, should accompany Holkar's troops to the southward whether they are to be considered merely as officers in the service of Holkar, or whether they are to be regarded and treated as rebels to this state.

15 Hitherto I have directed Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to observe the most scrupulous neutrality towards both the rebels and the Naib of Amber. As Dadun Khan has deputed a Vakil to Rajah Govind Buksh, I have instructed Lieutenant Colonel Doveton to hold a language of perfect neutrality towards that person, and have requested Meer Allum to point out to Rajah Govind Buksh the

propriety of avoiding everything like the appearance of encouragement to the Rebels. As soon as the Agent of Dadun Khan has communicated his message to the Rajah the Agent will be directed to leave the Nizam's territories and return to his master but I trust that it may be in the power either of Rajah Gorind Buksh or of Lieutenant Colonel Docton to procure from the Agent some more accurate information than we at present possess of the real disposition of the Rebels towards Holkar and of their future views and intentions.

Letter No 11.—The letter explains why and how Mahipat Ram had been given shelter and intimate the Governor-General that Mahipat Ram was proceeding to Calcutta to claim justice from the Governor-General.

FROM—JESWANT RAO HOLKAR.

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(Received 12th August 1808)

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's two obliging letters one on the subject of my receiving for the present the net collections of the district of Koonch from the date on which it was transferable to my daughter (who is most dear to me, and possesses a claim upon our mutual regard) and informing me that I was at liberty hereafter either to form the district or to commit the charge of it to your Lordship's Agent in Bundelkhand as may be most consonant to my wishes, and that the Agent will be to act accordingly under the instructions with which your Lordship has furnished him for that purpose. The other describing the and singular situation of Rajah Mahipat Ram who has been proclaimed as a rebel.

Previously to my receipt of the letters from the Residents at Poona, Nagpur and other places such officers are stationed Rajah Mahipat Ram had actually arrived on the bank of the Nerbudda and had sent me the message offering to come to me certain conditions and as I was not fully acquainted with the circumstances of the case, I deputed a confidential person to conduct him to my Camp and entertained him. After his arrival letters poured in in rapid succession from all quarters expressing but one desire that he should be seized and delivered up.

With a view, however, to cement the ties of cordiality and harmony and friendship which have long subsisted between the two states without interruption, I upon an expedient in the present case, and having ascertained the real views and sentiments of the Rajah I have with great judgment address, resolved to give the Rajah his dismissal and to dispatch him to Calcutta

With respect to the subject of Koonch, on which your Lordship has written to me in detail with the pen of kindness, I have fully understood all that your Lordship has stated. I have no objection to the proposed arrangement.

I trust that your Lordship will always be pleased to gratify the wish of my heart, by the transmission of friendly letters

Dated 22nd Jammaudeeool Aowl 1224 Hizree, 17th July 1868.

J. MONCKTON,
Persian-Secretary to Government

Letter No 12.—This is an enclosure to Sydenham's letter to Jenkins. Sydenham reports to the Governor-General how his (G-G's) letter to the Nizam was presented and its contents impressed upon him. He suggests that Mahipat Ram's family should be removed from Hyderabad to some place within British territories, Moontazimud Doula the Killedar of Doulatabat to be dismissed and Subhan Khan should be removed from Berar. These two were friends of Mahipat Ram. This is a piece of fine diplomatic correspondence, containing choicest phrases and words and most expressive and elegant expressions.

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Hyderabad, the 5th September 1808.

Various circumstances connected with the state of affairs at this court prevented me from carrying into immediate effect the instructions, which were conveyed to me in Mr Secretary Edmonstone's letter of the 30th of May last, at the period. When I had the honour to receive that dispatch I was engaged in the frivolous, but perplexing task of persuading the Nizam to visit me and I considered it to be of so much importance to remove the absurd apprehensions which His Highness entertained of the object of that visit that I determined to postpone the delivery of your Lordship's letter until the entertainment which had been prepared for His Highness should have taken place.

2 It appeared to me that your Lordship's remonstrances were intended to produce two effects. One, to remove every unjust suspicion from His Highness's mind, the other to demonstrate the real danger of His Highness permitting his conduct to be swayed by those suspicions. Of these two effects, it occurred to me that the former ought to be first produced in order that His Highness's mind might be prepared for the reception of the salutary counsel which is contained in your Lordship's letter. As long as His Highness's mind continued to be agitated by the absurd alarms, described in my last dispatch, so long would His Highness have placed an improper construction on the motives of your Lordship's remonstrances. In that state of mind, your Lordship's remonstrances, though conveyed in the most conciliating language and blended with the most encouraging assurances, would only have confirmed his suspicions and increased his alarm. It was to be expected, that the manner in which the proposed entertainment would be conducted and concluded, might convince His Highness with more certainty than the most serious arguments, of the utter falsehood

and absurdity of the reports, which had been communicated to him. As long as those apprehensions continued to be entertained by His Highness, it would have been impossible to produce that degree of confidence, which should enable him to comprehend the real motives of your Lordship's remonstrances.

3 I have already observed in my dispatch No 11, that the Nizam appeared to be much gratified by the entertainment, that several Omrahs, who attended his person were no less pleased at the attention which was paid to them, and even the apprehension of the Begums, for the safety of the Nizam, were entirely removed. For some short time it was not my wish to disturb this state of general satisfaction, and harmony, by discussions, which were calculated to rouse fears of the Nizam, and were likely to be offensive to his friends and favourites. In the mean while, His Highness continued to amuse himself at the gardens of Lingumpally and after his return to the city, he observed so little moderation on his pleasures, that he was seized with a violent fever, which confined him to the Mahal, and suspended the transaction of all public business at the Durbar.

4 During this interval, the persons of Rajah Sukroodur and of his Deputy Eknath Pandit had been seized and sent to Hyderabad. The troops belonging to Sukroodur manifested no disposition to resist the orders of the Minister. Measures were immediately taken to settle the heavy arrears of pay which were due from them. The Amildars, who were appointed by the Minister, established their authority over the districts, which were held by Sukroodur, and the perfect tranquillity which prevailed throughout those districts admitted of my withdrawing the Battalion of Native Infantry, that had been stationed at Bheer.

5 The removal from all influence and authority of Rajah Sukroodur, and the transfer to persons, on whom the Minister could place confidence of the extensive country which was held by the Rajah, had accomplished a principal object of your Lordship's instructions, and rendered it of less urgent necessity to propose the other measures, which are detailed in the Secretary's dispatch.

6 During His Highness's illness and confinement, both the Minister and myself received repeated intelligence, that constant correspondence was maintained between Moontizimood Dowlah and Raja Mahipat Ram, and the Minister ascertained that Moontizimood Dowlah was in the habit of sending Arzees, once or twice a week, to the Nizam through the Begums. For some time I was led to expect that the Minister would have succeeded in intercepting some of Moontizimood Dowlah's packets to the Mahal, but after many fruitless attempts we were obliged to be satisfied with having ascertained that a frequent intercourse by letter subsisted between the Begums and Moontizimood Dowlah and between

Moontizimood Dowlah and Mahipat Ram Various circumstances which were communicated to me by persons of respectable authority induced me to believe that the Tyniatoo Nissa Begum herself was actively engaged in a clandestine correspondence with Mahipat Ram and Jeswant Rao Holkar but the minister from all his intelligence concluded that the Begum's name was employed only as a cover to the proceedings of the Nizam.

7 I confess that I have very little doubt in my own mind that the Nizam did expect Mahipat Ram to return to Berar assisted by Jeswant Rao Holkar and a considerable Army with a large train of artillery but His Highness seemed gradually to become convinced that neither Mahipat Ram nor Holkar had sufficient resources to raise an Army and that Holkar was by no means seriously disposed to enter into a contest with the British Government It was said that the conditions prescribed by Holkar as the price of his commencing hostilities with the Company were extravagant beyond all measure, and they appeared more calculated to amuse the Nizam than furnish any indication of a serious design to violate the subsisting peace. It is reported that Mahipat Ram himself discouraged the Nizam from undertaking any measures, that might subject him to the suspicions of the British Government but rather advised His Highness to wait patiently till the arrival of the French and Persians in Hindostan when all the states in India might unite with certain success in the expulsion of the British nation

8 I discovered that the Nabob Soobhan Khan wrote several letters, under a feigned name to Mahipat Ram and at the same time frequently corresponded with Moontizim Dowlah Indeed the conduct and proceedings of Soobhan Khan have for some time past been of so extraordinary a nature, that I consider it to be necessary to communicate the fullest information of them to your Lordship particularly as I have been induced by the advice of the Minister and from the result of my own reflection to advise the Nizam to resume the Jaghires which are held by Soobhan Khan.

9. The whole of the Nizam's possessions north of the river Godavery is infested by large bands of Freebooters, known by the appellation of Naicks and Bheels who prevent the cultivators from reaping their harvest, compel travellers and merchants to travel with large escort for their safety and by their depredations and cruelties have completely deprived the province of Berar of all internal tranquillity At all times the ranges of hills which intersect Berar were chiefly inhabited by Freebooters, who subsisted either by plunder or by contributions from inhabitants or travellers who purchased an exemption from robbery by certain stipulated payments of money The inhabitants secured their crop from depredation by giving up a certain portion of their harvests to the robbers and travellers and merchants paid a certain tax to secure their persons and property from danger In the

course of time, these duties or Roosoom, as they are called, became established and defined and they entitled the inhabitants to protection from all depredations whatsoever. The Government sensible of the difficulty of extirpating a band of robbers, whose haunts were situated in the recesses of mountains, inaccessible to the operations of regular troops, considered it a wise policy to encourage a mode of settlement which furnished a general security to the inhabitants, travellers and merchants against all thefts, robberies, and depredations. The Government not only acknowledged such engagement but provided for the regular payment of the Roosoom gave lands to the Naiks, and sometimes employed them in the service of the state.

10 But owing to the late war, and subsequent famine, many villages were deserted, and the Naicks and Bheels lost the contributions which they had formerly procured from them. The freebooters took advantage of the disturbed state of the country to extend their ravages, many needy adventurers from all parts of Berar, and some of the disbanded troops of Sindhia, Holkar and the Bhonsla, joined them. These parties become more large and formidable, and as the difficulty of subsistence increased with their numbers, their predatory excursions become more frequent, more distant and more destructive. Different bands sometimes quarrelled about their plunder, and many sanguinary engagements have taken place between them. But their injuries against one another have never been so destructive as their common injuries against the peaceable inhabitants of the country. Large tracts of country near the hills have been left uncultivated. Most of the villages in their neighbourhood have been deserted. The inhabitants have flocked to the walled towers, and near them even, the crops are not secure from the wanton and merciless depredations of the Bheels. Large bodies of these freebooters headed by their daring leaders, range unrestrained throughout the country, and keep whole districts in a state of terror.

11 Rajah Mahipat Ram from indolence, from despair of subduing such enemies, or with a view to employ their services on some future occasion, not only took no active measures to restrain them, but is even accused of having afforded them secret encouragement, and of having shared their plunder. Rajah Govind Buksh has often attempted to restrain their depredations, but the Bheels have in general succeeded in avoiding such parties of Troops as have been employed against them. The service is of so laborious and dangerous a nature that none of the Nizam's officers enter upon it with any great degree of zeal. The Cavalry is incapable of acting in the strong and rugged country to which the Bheels resort when they are pursued and even the Infantry cannot resort to their interior haunts.

12 But the chief obstacle, to the success of Rajah Govind Buksh's measures, has been the encouragement which the several Naiks have received from Officers in the Nizam's service, particularly from the Nabob Soobhan Khan. It is a notorious fact that

Soobhan Khan concert the expeditions of plunder with the Naiks employs some of his own troops in those expeditions, supplies the Naiks with ammunition and provisions receives the plunder in his own forts and retains a certain share of it for his own benefit. Many of the Naiks with their families and property reside in the districts belonging to Soobhan Khan under the immediate protection of his amildars. When an excursion has taken place the plunder is conveyed to places belonging to Soobhan Khan. Some part is retained by the Naiks and a certain portion is given to the Amils of Soobhan Khan. I have procured a statement from a Portuguese Officer in the service of Soobhan Khan by which it appears that his share of the plunder since the termination of the late Mahrattah war exceeds the sum of sixteen lacks of rupees.

13. Soobhan Khan has never concealed his enmity to the present ministers or his abhorrence of the English nation not satisfied with loading us with rancorous abuse, he applies the most contumacious and degrading epithets to the Nabob Salabat Khan for his obedience to the present minister and his attachment to many British Officers. Since the period that Lieut Colonel Doveton has been in Berar Soobhan Khan has on no one occasion showed the slightest disposition to attend to the Colonel's suggestions or to obey any of the orders of Rajah Govind Buksh. His time and attention are entirely occupied by his connection with the Naiks, and in the accumulation of wealth derived from the plunder of the country.

14. Soobhan Khan is described to be a brave enterprising soldier of a fierce and turbulent disposition proud naughty and ambitious. From his character of irregular ambition his connection with many of the principal banditti in Berar his enmity to the present ministers and his aversion for the British Government, I consider him to be one of those military leaders who might in times of difficulty and confusion become extremely dangerous to our alliance with the Government and to the stability of our interest in the Deccan.

15. I have considered it necessary My Lord to be very full upon the character and conduct of this person in order that your Lordship may be acquainted with the grounds upon which I was induced to comply with the Ministers earnest solicitation that I should unite with him with suggesting the removal of Soobhan Khan from the Jagheers which he holds in the province of Berar.

16. The Minister has often expressed his anxiety to liberate Berar from the present oppressions of the Bheels and Naiks, who have desolated the country and reduced its revenue so low that great difficulty is found to pass the troops that are stationed there for its defence. The Minister declared his inability to accomplish any settlement with those freebooters so long as Soobhan Khan should retain his Jagheers in Berar that the conduct of that Officer had invariably been insolent presumptuous and contumacious that he was worse than useless, and that he would himself

propose Soobhan Khan's dismissal from the service if such a proposition unsupported by my influence were likely to be acceded to by His Highness the Nizam

17 It was therefore determined that I should take no notice of Rajah Sukroodur but that the Minister should propose the removal of Soobhan Khan from his Jagheers in Berar, and that I should support that proposition in the presence of the Nizam. The Minister in his usual spirit of moderation, declared his readiness to retain Soobhan Khan in the service of the state, with a party of 500 Silledar horse, to be paid from the treasury, and to continue to Soobhan Khan his personal Jagheer of fifty thousand Rupees

18 As soon as the Nizam was sufficiently recovered to hold a public Durbar, I was invited to be present at His Highness's reception of the Poona Vakil, Kistnaje Mankeshwar and I had the satisfaction to observe that His Highness's demeanour and language towards the Vakeel were perfectly courteous and conciliatory. Both the Vakeel and his Deputy received the usual presents of Jewels, and they were conducted to Durbar, and from the Durbar to their dwelling, with the customary attentions and ceremonies

19 On a subsequent day I proceeded to the palace for the purpose of presenting to His Highness Lieutenant Colonel Montresor and his general staff, on their return from the expedition against Mahipat Ram. The Colonel and the officers who accompanied him were treated with great politeness by the Nizam, and received presents of jewels suitable to their respective ranks

20 At length I wrote a note to the Minister to acquaint him that I had received a Khureetah from the Governor General to His Highness the Nizam, and to request that a day might be appointed for the delivery of the letter. When my note was conveyed to the Nizam, His Highness expressed great anxiety to learn the contents of the letter, and desired me to send a copy of it for his perusal. On many occasions, I have declined furnishing the Minister, or the Nizam, with copies of the Governor General's letter, in order that the contents of them might not become public amongst a description of persons, who are ready to prepare the Nizam for resistance against every proposal from the British Government, but on the present occasion I thought it might be productive of considerable benefit to give the Nizam an opportunity to examine, and comprehend, the nature tendency and object of your Lordship's remonstrances and advice. It was my wish that the impression upon His Highness's mind should be rather the deliberate result of his own reflection upon the contents of your Lordship's letter, than the sudden effect of such arguments and remonstrances, as I might have to employ in his presence. I therefore wrote a note to the Minister, enclosing an authenticated copy of your Lordship's letter, and stating, that as the letter contained matter of high importance which would require the serious attention and deliberation of the Nizam, I had sent it with a view that His Highness

might at his leisure weigh and reflect upon its contents before I waited upon him to propose the measures which I had been instructed to submit to His Highness's considerations.

21 In the course of three or four days I was invited to an audience and accordingly proceeded to the Durbar. After the usual enquiries and compliments had passed I delivered your Lordship's Khurectah to His Highness who opened it and desired that the letter might be read to him by principal Moonshee. His Highness appeared to direct all his attention to the contents of the letter and after the reading of it was finished he spoke to me nearly to the following effect. That he was perfectly sensible of your Lordship's motives in communicating to him your sentiments with freedom and candour on the late occurrences and the present state of affairs at this court. That he considered the British Government to be the guardian of the Asaphia state and in that capacity he looked up to your Lordship for advice upon all subjects in which the interests of the two states were concerned. That when a reference to your Lordship were inconvenient or unnecessary he looked to me for counsel and assistance. That he had always shown a ready disposition to be guided by such counsel as I had from time to time given to him. That he was determined to adhere faithfully to all his engagements with the Company and that he trusted your Lordship would give credit to his assertion and would relinquish the suspicions which you appeared to entertain of the sincerity of his sentiments.

22 I replied that I was happy to learn from His Highness himself that he was sensible of the motives which had induced your Lordship to write the present letter. That I could assure His Highness of your Lordship's reluctance even to employ the language of remonstrance or complaint, or to entertain suspicions of His Highness's sincerity. But whatever your Lordship's personal feelings might be, it was necessary to sacrifice them to the important duty of watching over the rights and interests of the British Government and of securing the benefits of the alliance from the machinations and hostility of those, who were inimical to the mutual interests of the two states. That I had repeatedly informed His Highness of the danger of trusting to mere assertions and protestations of sincerity and friendship. That one Government must judge of the feelings and disposition of another Government by its acts and its general conduct and not by its language alone. That although His Highness had, after much tedious altercation, gradually consented to various measures which I had been the instrument of proposing to his consideration yet I had never discovered any great willingness on the part of His Highness, to adopt the advice of his ally and that I did not recollect one instance of His Highness having spontaneously taken any means to justify the sincerity of his professions of regard towards the British Government. Indeed I was well convinced that many of the unpleasant measures, which I had been compelled to propose to His Highness might have been avoided, if His Highness had either followed the advice of his minister or had of himself consulted his

own interest or dignity, and the obligations of his alliance with the British Government. That certainly the whole course of events for the last six months was sufficient to produce the most unfavourable impressions on the mind of the person least liable to suspicion or distrust. That I should have betrayed the most sacred part of my duty if I had hesitated in communicating my apprehensions to the Governor General, or had concealed from the knowledge of your Lordship, any of the circumstances upon which those apprehensions were founded. I then reviewed the proceedings of Rajah Mahipat Ram and his associates from the period at which I arrived at Hyderabad till their late rebellion, and I commented in severe terms on the character and conduct of a desperate faction whose design was evidently to dissolve that alliance, which was essential to the existence of His Highness's Government.

23 The Nizam did not attempt to offer any excuse for the conduct of Mahipat Ram which His Highness persisted in attributing to madness, but His Highness observed that he could not be responsible for the proceedings of a man, who was either so mad, or so foolish, as wantonly to bring destruction upon his own head. I replied that no one could deny the folly of Mahipat Ram's conduct, but I was by no means so certain of his madness. That I attributed his conduct partly to his mischievous spirit and restless ambition, and partly to the knowledge or supposition, that his conduct was encouraged, and would be supported by persons in higher authority. His Highness's attention was much excited by this remark, but after musing for some time, he only observed, that it was the character of madness to fancy the most improbable things.

24 I then reverted to the subject of your Lordship's letter and requested His Highness's attention, both to the matter which it contained, and to the spirit in which it was written. It was the constant object of the Governor General's solicitude to prevent the relations of harmony and friendship between the two states from being disturbed. It was equally the wish, the duty, and the interest, of the British Government to provide for the security of His Highness's throne, the dignity of his family, the prosperity of his country, and the independence of his power. But whatever our inclination might be our anxiety and our exertions would be vain and useless, if His Highness should refuse all confidence to his ally, and took to other quarters for assistance and support. No friendship could be permanent, of which mutual confidence was not the basis, and how could His Highness feel that degree of confidence, which was so essential to the continuation of the subsisting alliance, if he persisted in looking for counsel to those alone who were inimical to the British Government, and if he suffered his mind to be agitated by the most unjust and unfounded suspicions of our character and designs. As long as His Highness did not feel implicit confidence in the justice, probity and faith of his ally, so long would the principle and essence of the alliance continue vitiated and corrupted, and the alliance itself be subject to all the accidents, which attended friendships that were not

cemented by reflection. The present alliance was founded on a union of interest though it was true that the interests of each state were of a very different degree. The particular interests of the British Government as connected with His Highness's Government were merely those of every civilized state that cultivated the arts of peace, and was naturally anxious to live on terms of friendship and harmony with its neighbour and the general interests of the British nation were connected with the repose and tranquillity of the whole of India. But the interests of His Highness's Government in its alliance with the British nation comprehended its very existence as an independent power. Every consideration therefore of policy as well as of honour and good faith required that His Highness should manifest a religious observance of his engagements and should act towards us with the most cordial spirit of attachment.

25. The Nizam appeared to pay great attention to this discourse and the Minister went over the same ground and illustrated the principles which regulated the conduct of the British Government by the history of our transactions in India. The Minister was very profuse in his assurances that the Nizam understood and felt all the advantages of his present connection with the British Government and said that I was not to judge of His Highness's sentiments by the opinions and conduct of a few desperate men who were inimical to the alliance and might wish to prejudice the Nizam against it.

26. I observed that late occurrences had made so unfavourable an impression on the mind of the Governor General that his Lordship had deemed it necessary to recall the attention of the Nizam to the obligation of his alliance and to point out the line of conduct which was requisite for the Nizam to pursue if His Highness wished to preserve those advantages which he had derived from our friendship and support. That the whole letter was written in the most conciliatory tone, and contained just that kind of language which one friend would address to another on a subject concerning their most important interests. That it was his Lordship's wish to remove from the mind of the Nizam, every impression of alarm and apprehension and to restore to it that confidence, which was so essential to the harmony and union of the two states. That I fervently hoped His Highness would regulate his conduct by the salutary counsel which the letter contained, and that he would not compel the British Government to adopt any measure of a different complexion from those, which I should have to offer to his consideration.

27. I then stated that Mahipat Ram continued to employ the Nizam's name as an authority for all his late violent proceedings that he kept up a constant correspondence with his friends in these territories that the names of persons of very high rank and con-

sideration, for whom I had always entertained a profound respect had been mentioned as facilitating the transmission of letters from Holkar's Camp to the Nizam's palace, and from the palace to Holkar's Camp. I particularly observed that Moontizimoo Dowla whose partiality towards Mahipat Ram was sufficiently notorious had continued to maintain a regular intercourse with that rebel and with certain persons in the city. The Nizam, apparently with some surprize, asked me whether I credited all the intelligence I received. I said that I had taken particular pains to ascertain the truth of the information which had been communicated to me, that it had been procured from several distinct sources, and that I had no cause to imagine that I was much deceived. I then read some papers of intelligence, which I had procured from the city, from Aurangabad, from Burhanpur and from Holkar's Camp, respecting the language held by Mahipat Ram, and his intercourse with Hyderabad and Moontizimoo Dowlah. His Highness turned towards the Minister and enquired whether he had received any intelligence of that description. The Minister replied that all the Akhbars he had received corroborated what I had mentioned and that copies of those Akbars had been regularly submitted to His Highness.

28* I then said that the Governor General had, in his letter, alluded to certain arrangements and measures, the adoption of which was calculated to secure the tranquillity of these territories from the machinations of our common enemies, and to convince the Governor General of His Highness's disposition to discourage those who were inimical to the combined interests of the two states. That the measures, to which the Governor General particularly alluded, were the removal of Mahipat Ram's family from Hyderabad to some convenient place under the dominion of the British Government, and the dismissal of Moontezimoo Dowlah from the Killehdaree of Dowlatabad. That the first measure would deprive Mahipat Ram of all hope of return to Hyderabad, and might operate as some check on his future proceedings. That with reference to the tranquillity of Berar, it was highly expedient that so important a post as the fort of Dowlatabad should not remain in the custody of an officer who was notoriously associated with a rebel to the state. I observed that the family of Mahipat Ram might perhaps wish to retire to Benares, where it might remain in perfect security and would be subjected to no unnecessary restraint or personal danger.

29 The Nizam showed no symptoms of dissatisfaction at these proposals, but merely desired the Minister to see that they were carried into effect. The Minister then addressed the Nizam upon the subject of Soobhan Khan's conduct developed the whole of his connection with the Naiks and Bheels, produced statements of the plunder which had been collected by that officer, and loudly complained of his insolence and disobedience. After the Minister had concluded, I observed that I was happy he had made the Nizam so fully acquainted with the proceedings of Soobhan Khan,

whose conduct had long excited my attention and surprize. That Soobhan Khan had never shown the slightest disposition to act in obedience to the orders of Lieut Colonel Doveton that latterly he had engaged in a clandestine correspondence of a suspicious nature with Mahipat Ram and Moontezimoo Dowlah that the sentiments he always expressed of the British Government and of its alliance with this state convinced me that he is one of that desperate faction who were impatient to unite in open hostility against us. The Minister resumed the subject and stated that it would be impossible to come to any satisfactory arrangement with the freebooters who desolated Berar as long as Soobhan Khan retained his Jagheer in that province. That the connection of Soobhan Khan with those freebooters the turbulence of his character his open contempt of all the ministers orders added to the dangerous tendency of his views rendered it of extreme importance to recall him to the capital to resume his Jagheers, and to deprive him of all influence in Berar. The Nizam appeared to be sensible of the propriety of the Ministers advice and asked me whether I thought this arrangement would tend to remove the unfavourable impression which the Governor General had received from the late occurrences in these territories. I replied that I was perfectly confident of the expediency and importance of adopting the Ministers advice and that I could venture to assure His Highness of your Lordships being much gratified at the anxiety which he expressed to remove those impressions which your Lordship had reluctantly admitted after an attentive review of the state of affairs at this Court. The Minister proposed that Soobhan Khan should be retained in the service with a party of 500 horse to be paid from the Treasury that he should continue to enjoy his personal estate and that he should be recalled to the capital. The Nizam expressed his approbation of these measures and authorized the necessary orders to be prepared for his signature.

30. His Highness then directed the Minister and Ihtisamool Moolk to prepare an appropriate answer to the letter from the Governor General and desired that when the draft was prepared it might be brought to him for examination and correction. His Highness afterwards addressed himself to me and repeated his usual professions of regard and attachment towards the British Government assured me that he was much gratified by the warm interest which your Lordship expressed for the prosperity of the Assafiah state, and that he would on every occasion implicitly follow your Lordships advice. His Highness also said many flattering things to me and thanked me for the repeated proofs he had experienced of my attachment to his person and family. But he requested that I would not suffer any suspicion of his sincerity to remain in the mind of your Lordship but that I would exert myself to restore the most entire confidence to both parties. I made a suitable answer to what His Highness had said and I assured him that your Lordships confidence would be restored the moment His Highnesss conduct should justify the sincerity of his professions.

Letter No 13 —Sydenham reports the death of Meer Allum on the 8th December 1808 and his last interview with him

FROM—T SYDENHAM, RESIDENT AT HYDRABAD.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Hyderabad, the 10th December 1808

I am much concerned to announce to your Lordship the melancholy intelligence of the death of Meer Allum. Since the commencement of the cold season, he complained of oppression at his chest and of rheumatic pains in his head. But there were no symptoms which foreboded any danger until the 4th or 5th of December, when his debility became more apparent and it seemed doubtful whether he could live much longer. I saw him on the evening of the 5th when he was scarcely able to sit up on his bed to receive me. He was in the clear and entire possession of his faculties, and spoke to me with great calmness of his approaching fate. Without despairing of recovery, he had prepared his mind to meet death with composure and resignation. He thanked me for the many proofs he had received of my friendship, and said that he carried with him to the grave the warmest feelings of gratitude and attachment towards the British Government. He alluded, very distantly and delicately to the situation in which his family and especially Moonirul Moolk, would be left by his death and he recommended them all to my protection and guardianship of the Nizam or this Government he said very little. His voice became so feeble that I could not understand him distinctly, but he appeared to mean that the Nizam was surrounded by men who would bring destruction on this state, if we did not watch them narrowly and remove the Nizam from their influence. After a short pause, he said "God in Heaven only knows what will become of him" meaning I thought the Nizam.

2 During the 6th and the 7th he remained nearly in the same state, but on the 8th his weakness was extreme, and it was evident that he had not long to live. Towards the evening of that day he became drowsy and reluctant to move. His memory began to fail and his apprehension and utterance to get indistinct. About 10 o'clock at night he was almost insensible and motionless and in that state he lingered on till the midnight, when he expired without a struggle or a groan. There was no symptom of any particular disease so distinctly marked, as to enable his medical attendants to attribute his death to any other cause, than the gradual exhaustion of his debilitated frame, and the slow and almost insensible dissolution of his vital powers.

3 On the morning of the 9th his remains were carried to a small tomb at the common burial place of the Musalmans of the Shiah Sect. The Mir as soon as he was appointed Minister had caused a tomb to be built in a small spot of ground within the city which he had purchased for that particular purpose. Before his death he gave directions that he might be buried in that tomb but the Nizam thought proper to prevent the Meers will from being carried into effect and ordered that his remains should be placed either in the Tomb of Austoojah or in the common burying ground. The Mir's relations preferred the latter. The funeral was perfectly simple. All those Omrahs who were in any way connected with or attached to the Meer attended his body to the grave and many thousands of the poor of the city crowded the streets through which the body was carried. There was a general emotion of concern and distress through the city. I believe that there are very few persons who do not look upon the Mir's death as a great public calamity.

4. I directed that the minute guns to the number of fifty-five, should be fired in the British Cantonment and both there and at the Residency the flag was hoisted half mast high as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Minister.

5 The Nizam very foolishly ordered a body of troops to assemble at the place, and this order joined to his preventing the Mir's body from being deposited in the Tomb which was prepared for it excited considerable disgust and some clamours amongst the populace. However there was no tumult or disorder and there is not the slightest appearance that the present tranquillity will be in any way disturbed.

Letter No 14—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Sydenham's address to Lord Minto dated the 20th January 1809 in which Sydenham discusses the three plans about appointment of a successor to Meer Allum—the late Prime Minister to the Nizam. The three persons in view are Prince Nasir Jung, Shamsul Umra and Munirul Mulk. Having stated the advantages and disadvantages of each plan he awaits the pleasure of the Nizam and views of the Governor General.

FROM—T SYDENHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 9th March 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my dispatch No 17 to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR
GENERAL

MY LORD,

The several dispatches, which I have done myself the honour to address to your Lordship, respecting the present state of affairs at this court contain perhaps all the information which is sufficient to enable Government to come to an immediate decision upon the important subject that has been referred by the Nizam to the consideration of your Lordship in Council, but it may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be furnished with the result of my deliberations upon the most advantageous arrangement for the Government of this state, with reference to the actual condition of affairs at this Court, the personal disposition and character of the Nizam, and the future stability of our alliance

2 As the Right of the British Government to interpose its influence in the selection of a successor to the office of prime minister and consequently in the general arrangement for the Government of this country has been clearly and formally acknowledged by the Nizam and as His Highness has declared his resolution to be guided by the advice of his ally in framing that arrangement, it only remains for us to consider which mode of arrangement is likely to be most agreeable to the Nizam himself and most conducive to the permanent interests of the allied states

3 I have already taken the liberty to express an opinion that the interests of the British Government will be best consulted by that mode of arrangement which shall leave to Rajah Chandulal the largest share of active influence and authority in the future administration of the country, and although I am far from ascribing to the Rajah any distinguished or extraordinary merit on his capacity of a minister yet when his character and qualification are brought into comparison with those of any other public officer at this Court, I can consciously declare that in my judgment there is no other arrangement which is likely to be more conducive to the prosperity of this country

4 From the confidence which the Nizam on the whole has reposed in Chandu Lal for the last two years, and the influence which that person has acquired over the greater part of the Mahal, it may fairly be concluded that there is no man on whose character we could place any dependence, who would altogether be so acceptable to the Nizam and his family

5 I am therefore of opinion that the permanency of Chandulal's influence and control over the executive branch of the Government should be made the leading principle of every arrangement for the future administration of this country

6 It is very much with a view to that important object, that I should be disposed to estimate the comparative advantages of the several plans that have been referred to your Lordship's consideration

7 The two plans which I consider the most eligible are, either the appointment of the Prince Nasir Jung as Wullee Ahud leaving all the Executive duties of the ministerial office to the control and direction of Rajah Chandulal or the appointment of a regular successor to Meer Alum who would be likely to admit Chandu Lal to his confidence and allow him to exercise the same authority which was delegated to him by Meer Allum.

8 In my official dispatch No 14 I have ventured to express my opinion of the advantages of the former of these plans but at that time I conceived that it would not suit the jealous temper of the Nizam. However since that dispatch was written the subject has been much discussed in the Mahal and the plan has been seriously recommended to the Nizam both by the eldest Begums and the Chandnee Begum his favourite wife and the mother of Nasir Jung. The Nizam has consented to the celebration of the nuptials of Nasir Jung with the daughter of the Prince Akbar Jah and intends that his son shall in future have a separate establishment suitable to the rank and dignity of the ostensible heir to the throne. I do not exactly know whether these arrangements should be considered as indicative of the Nizam's wishes to confer the office of Wullee Ahud upon his son but I understand that His Highness has expressed no objection to the plan and the Begums seem assured of his ultimate consent to it.

9. If the Nizam should prepare the plan himself or if we could ascertain that it would be agreeable to him I am of opinion that it should be encouraged though not pressed upon his acceptance. The advantages of this plan appear to me to be these —

1st.—It will secure Rajah Chandulal the exercise of that degree of influence and authority which will be so conducive to the tranquillity and prosperity of the country and to the interests of the alliance.

2nd.—It will be acceptable to all the family of the Nizam, with the exception of the Furzand Begum and Juhanparwar Begum, the sister and niece of Mooneerul Moolk, and it will secure to us the friendship and regard of the Chandni Begum, who possesses the entire confidence of the Nizam.

3rd.—It will put an end to all competition for the office of Minister and it will obviate those feelings of jealousy and disappointment and ambition which may be produced by conferring the office upon any of the Omrahs about the court.

4th.—It will be agreeable to the chief of the Pagah Party and to many of the principal Omrahs of the state.

5th.—It will facilitate the natural succession to the throne without any danger of disturbance or dispute.

6th—It will remove the young prince from the tutelage of ignorant women, and dispel the prejudices and of his costly education before they have time to take too deep a root in his mind. It will exercise his understanding in the business of life, it will render him gradually acquainted with our character principles and maxims of policy, it will familiarize him to our measure and habits. It will enable him to acquire correct notions of our power and resources, and a just conception of his real interests. In short it will give him a good political education and will insensibly qualify him to fill the throne to which he is heir.

10 The two Omrahs who appear to me to have the strongest pretention to the office of Minister are Shamsul Omrah, and Moonirul Mulk. Neither of them are qualified for the situation, but certainly of the two, Moonirul Moolk has more natural talent, experience, more practice in business, and more knowledge of the European character. On the other hand the family of Shamsul Omrah is more ancient, more powerful and more respected. He is at the Head of the largest Military party in the state and possesses exclusive Jaghirs. Moonirul Moolk has no Military power, and though his personal property be considerable, his Jaghirs are very trifling. Shamsul Omrah looks more to the dignity of the station, and Moonir-ul-Moolk more to its emoluments. Though Shamsul Omrah be inferior in talent, yet his character is by no means so exceptionable as that of Moonirool Moolk. Besides Shamsul Omrah will have the benefit of his uncle's advice and assistance, who has a very sound judgment and is much respected by the Nizam. Shamsul Omrah will place implicit confidence in Chandulal and I am very much afraid that Moonirool Moolk will always be jealous of him.

11 The advantages which are likely to attend the appointment of Shamsul Omrah are —

1st—That Chandulal would possess and would be at liberty to exercise, complete authority over the Government of the country

2nd—That the ministry would probably be conducted with becoming dignity, steadiness and regularity

3rd—That we should be able to attach to ourselves the most powerful and respectable party in the state

12 The advantages which would arise from the elevation of Munirul Moolk to the office of minister, proceed, first from his close connection with Meer Allum, which would probably induce him to follow the system of his predecessor, and ought to attach him to the interests of the British Government and secondly, from the personal experience he has had of the operation of the alliance and his knowledge of our character, habits and modes of transacting business

13 The objections against his being appointed are —

1st—The uncertainty whether the Nizam's sentiments of Moonirul Moolk be really changed and whether Moonirul Moolk is likely to retain any influence over His Highness

2nd—The jealousy which Moonirul Moolk entertains of Rajah Chandu Lal and the uncertainty whether they can ever be cordially united

14. In estimating the degree of weight that ought to be attached to these objections it will be necessary to take into consideration the following circumstances —

1st—That Chandni Begum being the eldest and favourite wife of the Nizam must feel some jealousy at the Juhan Parwar Begum who though she does not enjoy so much consideration in the family of His Highness aspires to more dignity from her connection with Azimul Omrah and from the ceremony of her marriage having been celebrated with the greatest publicity and splendour Both these Begums have borne several children but those by the Chandni Begum are much older and her eldest son is called Burre Saheb and is considered to be the natural heir to the throne. It has already occurred to the Chandni Begum that if Moonirul Moolk be appointed Minister and be supported by the British Government he may endeavour to fix the successor in the eldest son of the Nizam by the Juhan Parwar Begum who is anxious to marry her eldest daughter to Abululla Sahib the son of Moonirul Moolk and grandson of Meer Allum At all events Moonirul Moolk and his family will always be objects of jealousy to the Chandni Begum who has most influence in the Mahal and he must depend upon the support of his niece who is by no means a favourite with the Nizam.

2nd—That Chandu Lal from the sincere respect which he feels for the memory of Meer Allum, would not attempt to oppose the views of Moonirul Moolk, yet it is certain that he would prefer the appointment of a Wullee Ahud or of Shamsul Omrah. He is fearful that Moonirul Moolk, when once fixed in office would endeavour to deprive him of the confidence of the Nizam and to drive him from the situation of Paishkar To account for the alarm which Chandu Lal feels on this subject it is necessary that I should state to your Lordship that some months before the death of Meer Allum Moonirul Moolk attempted to deprive Chandu Lal of the office of Paishkar and to procure it for Shiv Prasad who had either paid, or offered, to Moonirul Moolk one lakh of rupees for his services on that occasion I do not know how far the intrigue set on foot by Moonirul Moolk might have proceeded if I had not disclosed it to Meer Allum who instantly put a stop to it by threatening to banish Moonirul Moolk to Aurangabad. The Meer afterwards reconciled Chandu Lal to Moonirul Moolk, and as both parties seemed satisfied the Meer

solicited that I would not mention the circumstance in my public correspondence nor should I think it necessary to recur to it at present, if I were not desirous of showing that the apprehension felt by Chandulal is not quite imaginary and if Moonirul Moolk had not lately repeated his attempts to injure Chandu Lal, by accusations before the Nizam very prejudicial to the character of the Rajah, and by getting his niece to advise the Nizam to bestow the office of Paishkar on Roop Lal

15 If the three plans, which I have mentioned, were equally agreeable to the Nizam, and that his choice did not appear to induce more to one than the other, I should prefer the appointment of Nasir Jang as Wullee Ahud or Nominal Minister, leaving all the executive duties of the office to the control of Rajah Chandu Lal. If the Nizam did not manifest some anxiety to carry that plan into effect, but seemed to incline to the regular appointment of a Minister, I should on the whole prefer the appointment of Shamsul Omrah to that office. But if His Highness evinced the slightest objection to the appointment of Shamsul Omrah and continued to manifest a favourable disposition towards Moonirul Moolk, it might then be advisable to confirm his choice of the latter person.

16 It would not perhaps be difficult to ascertain the real sentiments of the Nizam, by laying the three plans before him and by desiring him to exercise a perfect liberty in the choice of one of them. Nor would it be difficult to direct his choice if your Lordship should conceive any of the plans to be decidedly superior to the other two an indirect hint to Chandu Lal, Rooplal, Umjudul Moolk, and the Begum would probably be all that is necessary to get the Nizam to propose either of the three plans and the slightest recommendation from your Lordship would determine His Highness's choice in favour of that plan, which your Lordship might consider to be the best suited to the mutual interests of the allied states

17 Until I shall be honoured with your Lordship's decision upon this important subject, I shall continue to observe the most scrupulous neutrality and shall cautiously abstain from all further agitation of the question, so that I may be at perfect liberty to give the fullest effect to any system of measures that your Lordship may judge to be best adapted to the temper of this Court, most agreeable to the personal feelings of the Nizam, and most favourable to the permanent interests of the British Government

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your-most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad
The 20th January 1809

T SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad

Letter No 15.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Sydenham's address to the Governor-General dated February 1809. The entire address has not been communicated to Jenkins but only from para. 17. This document contains the names of all the claimants to the office of Prime Minister and an estimate of their character and suitability to the office. The part played by the Begums is significant and is fully explained. The accompanying papers are also important.

FROM—T SYDI NIHAM RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD
TO—R JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad the 17th April 1809.

I have the honour to transmit to you copies of the enclosures to my official dispatch No 15 to the Governor General

17 I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the papers marked A which form an appendix to this dispatch for an account of the measures taken by Umjudul Moolk to obtain the office of Minister for his nephew and of the communications which have passed between us on that subject. Your Lordship will observe that these Omrahs at first declined the encouragement which was held forth to them to apply for the situation that afterwards they did not agitate the subject at Court until they had previously ascertained that I should not oppose their views and that their proceedings and communications are distinguished by great frankness and dignity

18 As it will rest with your Lordship to decide what degree of support it may suit our interests to afford to the pretensions of these Omrahs it may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be made acquainted with my sentiments respecting their character. Shamsul Omrah is a young man about 28 years old, fair handed, of mild disposition and manners. His understanding is said to be weak and there is a vacancy in the expression of his countenance which strongly confirms that report. He has a difficulty of utterance, and seldom speaks. He is curious in all articles of European manufacture and is ambitious of having his house, furniture and equipage as much as possible according to the European fashion. He takes great delight in mechanics, handicrafts and the popular experiments of natural philosophy. The whole of his time is devoted to those and he leaves the management of the affairs and the command of his party to his maternal uncle Umjud-ul Moolk.

19 Umjud ul Moolk is an elderly man with much the appearance of a respectable old soldier. His demeanour is grave, and his manners are formal. He is perfectly illiterate, and very ignorant, but he seems to possess a certain rectitude of judgment and a plain downright sense, which enable him to conduct himself with admirable decorum, propriety and steadiness. He was

always treated with great confidence by the late Nizam and the present Nizam looks up to him with much deference and respect. He is not often consulted, but whenever his opinion has been required it always appeared to me to be plain, honest and much to the purpose. He is said to be constant and uniform in his friendship, and extremely punctual in the performance of his engagements. He has not much experience in business and the concerns of the Pagah Lands and the payment of the Pagah troops are left entirely to the management of Mootesuddies of whom Jaishankar Dass is at present the principal.

20 In both these Omrahs I have always observed considerable dignity and steadiness of character and conduct, a pride which renders them much above all petty intrigue and all jealousy of the advancement and good terms of other persons. They seem too conscious of the superiority of their rank and station to fear any competitor. They confine themselves to their own business and appear to take no interest in other people's concerns. They are fond of having Europeans in their service and treat them with great consideration and kindness. Since my arrival at this place their conduct has been perfectly unexceptionable. I have never heard anything of them which could lead me to suspect that they are at all inimical to the interests of the alliance and indeed Umzad-ul-Moolk (as your Lordship will perceive by some of my dispatches to Sir George Barlow) has frequently exerted his influence over the Nizam's mind to the benefit of the alliance. Although I have had very little personal intercourse with them, we regularly exchange complimentary messages and they have always been extremely civil and courteous to me.

21 Though Umzudul Moolk announced his intention to me of addressing an Arzee to the Nizam on the subject of Shamsul Omrah's views, yet I have not learnt that he has made so direct an application to His Highness to appoint his eldest son, Minister. Indeed it is probable that the measure of constituting the young prince, Wallace Ahud, would be so agreeable to the leaders of the Pagah party as well as to most of the Omrahs about the Court that Umzadul Moolk would not think of placing the pretensions of Shamsul Omrah in competition with such an arrangement.

22 Previously to the death of Meer Allum, it did not appear that Moonirul Moolk had the most distant expectation of succeeding his father-in-law. When the Meer, a short time before he became insensible, took a last leave of the females of his family, he looked at his daughter, the wife of Moonirul Moolk, with great tenderness and concern, and said "If your brother Mir Dowran, had been alive, my office might have descended to my family, but the Nizam bears such enmity towards your husband that His Highness will never be brought to confer my office upon him. God knows whether he will be suffered to enjoy liberty or life. I have lived longer than I expected and I am satisfied. The only anxiety I feel is for you, your husband and your children. I leave you

all to the protection of my friend Captain Sydenham and I know he will never forsake you. Consider him as the guardian of your children. If it had not pleased God to take away my son but the Meer could not proceed and burst into tears. These were almost the last words that he uttered. Even at the funeral of Meer Allum the grief of Moonirul Moolk seemed to be quite absorbed in fears for his property and life. He repeatedly asked my Mowhee whether he might depend upon the safety of his person that he would abandon his property and be satisfied with an asylum at the Residency. From this state of suspense and agitation he was received with great kindness by the Nizam who spoke to him in terms of consolation of the death of Meer Allum and who sent a message of assurance to the whole family. His Highness ordered him to attend at the palace twice a day and by his language and demeanour taught him to believe that he would immediately succeed his father in law. Indeed such was the general expectation of this event that some of the Courtiers and Moote suddies proposed to present their Nuzzurs to him.

23. Moonirul Moolk suggested the propriety of His Highness's writing a note to me to announce his intention and that the Juhan Parwar Begum sent the draft of a note for His Highness's consideration. The Nizam approved of the draft the note was written and sealed and I was led to expect the receipt of it. However His Highness did not send the note and when he was urged to dispatch it by the Juhan Parwar Begum he replied that neither she nor her uncle understood the forms, which ought to be observed on such occasions. That a letter to the Governor General informing the death of the late Minister must precede any intimation to the Resident of his intention to appoint another that measures of such importance should not be hastily taken and that he ought not to make the appointment without first consulting the Resident's advice. At the repeated solicitation of Juhan Parwar Begum he promised to speak to me on the subject the first time I should attend the Durbar and when I went to the palace Moonirul Moolk said to me aside that His Highness intended to require any opinion respecting a successor to Meer Allum that he was the servant of the Company and that he looked up to me for everything in life. However the Nizam neither on that nor a subsequent occasion spoke a word upon the subject nor did His Highness give me any opportunity of alluding to it.

24. The sudden and violent change in His Highness's disposition towards Moonirul Moolk was the cause of no less surprise and wonder to me than to every person in the city. For the last three years His Highness has uniformly betrayed the most rancorous animosity against Moonirul Moolk, and never mentioned his name but with the most abusive epithets. I recollect that Moonirul Moolk in the presence of Meer Allum, once told me that the Nizam declared, that he wished that Moonirul Moolk was cut into small pieces to feed the Crows at the palace gate. Indeed I imagined

that a great deal of the Nizam's ill-humour towards the Meer proceeded from his violent hatred of Moonirul Moolk, and I often recommended to the Meer that they should live separately, or that Moonirul Moolk should go and live at Aurangabad, with expectation that absence might diminish His Highness's animosity

25 It was sometime before I could come at any distinct information of the courses of this extraordinary change. I have now ascertained that Moonirul Moolk set on foot a negotiation for the place of Minister as soon as Meer Allum's case became hopeless, that he procured the support of Jyniatoonissa Begum (the Nizam's mother) by the promise of a large sum of money and by engaging to effect the release of Rajah Rajendra that he prevailed upon the Chandni Begum to use her influence in his favour by the offer of 50,000 Rupees and by making her believe that Chandu Lal's interests were as much concerned as his own in the proposed arrangement, and that he obtained their general consent to the plan, by persuading them, that he had secured the support of the British Government. There can be no doubt, that not only the Begums, but even the Nizam were impressed with a belief amounting to conviction that it would be vain to propose any other person but Moonirul Moolk for the office of Minister because we were resolved at all hazards to insist upon his nomination. The corresponding reports which have reached me from distinct sources of intelligence, the frank declaration of Chandu Lal, the eagerness and anxiety of Moonirul Moolk to precipitate the Nizam into formal declaration of his intention and finally the course of subsequent events, all these, taken together amount to a clear proof of the means which Moonirul Moolk employed to secure the object of his ambition

26 It was some time before the Nizam and the Begums began to suspect that we had not come to a previous determination to favour the pretensions of Moonirul Moolk against every competitor for the office, but since the Begums have been undeceived, their anxiety for his success with the exception of his own sister and niece, has nearly subsided, and I believe the Nizam is at least quite indifferent towards him. I have never expressed the slightest objection against him, at the same time I have not thought it prudent or becoming to encourage pretensions, that were founded upon gross misrepresentation. If the Nizam had voluntarily preferred Moonirul Moolk, either from motives of respect to the memory of Meer Allum or from an uninfluenced desire to do a gracious and acceptable act to the British Government, I should have endeavoured to confirm his choice but as it became evident that the Nizam's seeming preference was in some degree a constrained act, and proceeded from a mistaken notion of our views, I thought it a wiser as well as a more dignified policy to undeceive the Nizam by my general conduct and language, and to leave him a perfect liberty of choice

27. There are certainly some circumstances which would render it desirable to favour the views of Moonirul Moolk but as it is of importance that your Lordship's election should be made with a perfect knowledge of his character and habits I think it necessary to communicate what I have observed of them from a constant intercourse with him for the last three years

28. Moonirul Moolk has all the little vices of a man of weak understanding who has been bred up by women and spends most of his time amongst them. He is timid ignorant bigotted, extremely superstitious full of little jealousies and suspicious, curious of other people's concerns effeminate in his language and manners and abounding in professions and compliments. He seems incapable of any warm and steady attachment listens to every little tale of calumny and has not candour or spirit enough to trust any person. He is fond of money and never refuses the smallest or largest bribe. He is not quite illiterate. He has gone through some part of the common Book language of the Mussalmans but he has no other knowledge and has no curiosity for liberal or useful information. He has not been accustomed to the transactions of affairs of importance but he has acquired some facility in the management of small concerns and in expediting matters of more detail. He has no experience in the business of any of the principal departments of the state, but he is well acquainted with all the current business between the Residency and the Durbar. He mixes with ease and addresses in the society of Europeans and has become familiarized to some of their peculiar habits and customs. He is of course acquainted with the most striking parts of our national character and has caught up some of our leading maxims of policy and Government. His timidity would deter him from engaging in any deep or dangerous intrigues, and there is nothing of a restless or turbulent ambition in his character. He would probably be contented to carry on business as smoothly as possible and would think it prudent to be guided by the advice of the Resident. The most objectionable parts of his character as a public man are his duplicity and his inveterate propensity to secret intrigues which render it difficult to understand on what ground he stands, and dangerous to trust him with information of consequences. I observed that Meer Allum never permitted him to be present when any subject of importance was to be discussed by us. It would not be safe therefore to trust entirely to his principles but it would not perhaps be difficult to control him by his fears.

29. With respect to the intelligence which has been communicated to me regarding the late proceedings of Moonirul Moolk and the Nizam's real sentiments towards him, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the separate packet of papers marked B. It is proper that I should mention that the numbers 1 and 2 are translations of the reports sent to me by Moonirul Moolk. I believe that entire credit may be given to every word of the statement furnished by Chandu Lal on No. 3. Rajah Roop Lal has

charge of the Nizam's private treasury both in Hyderabad and in Golkunda, he manages all the expenses of the Mahal, and is superintendent of the Jagheers held by the different Begums. He was attached to the present Nizam before His Highness ascended the Musnud, and since the expulsion of Mahipat Ram, Roop Lal is supposed to be the greatest personal favourite of the Nizam.

30 A short time after Meer Allum's death, Jyniatoonissa Begum sent me a message which led to several communications between us respecting Rajah Rajendra. The messages to me from the Mahal were brought in the name both of Bukshi Begum and Jyniatoonissa Begum, but I discovered that the former, who takes little concern in public affairs and spends most of her time in devotional exercises had been persuaded to lend her name to give a greater importance to the messages. Jyniatoonissa Begum has always been a firm advocate of Rajah Rajendra, and she thought the present a good opportunity to procure his release, and if possible, his elevation to some post of consequence. I entered very largely and unreservedly into the subject of Rajendra, because I thought it right to convince her and the Nizam that we should oppose the enlargement and a the return to power of Rajendra.

31 I do not believe that the Nizam himself is much interested about that person, for he has firmly and steadily resisted all the Begum's efforts to bring Rajendra into office. She certainly gave assurances which Moonirul Moolk made her, of procuring at least the liberty of Rajendra, and she no doubt entertained hopes, that sooner or later Rajendra might be brought into his former office of Paishkar. But the result of her communications with me convinced her of the vanity of those hopes and of the duplicity of Moonirul Moolk. She immediately withdrew her support from Moonirul Moolk, made a slight struggle to induce the Nizam to appoint Rajendra Minister and failing in that, she has now united with Chandni Begum to prevail upon the Nizam to make his eldest son Wallee Ahud.

32 Moonirul Moolk must have been perfectly aware of the total impracticability of effecting the Begums wishes respecting Rajendra, and he probably made those assurances to her, merely because he knew that there was no way so certain to obtain her good offices in his favour. The papers marked 'C' contain statements of the several communications which passed between the Begums and myself respecting Rajah Rajendra.

33 Another competitor for the office of Minister is Sheyaroo Dowlah. He is a young man of very prepossessing appearance, has paid some attention to his studies, and is accomplished in all the Military exercises of the country. The Nizam has always treated him with great kindness, and considers him faithfully attached to his person. But he is quite unaccustomed to business, rapacious, and his disposition is said to be rather oppressive. Most of his own connections are of a turbulent character and his family which is

not respectable, owe their elevation to the patronage of Azimool Omrah and to the marriage of Sheyaroo Dowlah with the illegitimate daughter of Shaoool Moolk.

34 Although Sheyaroo Dowlah has constantly maintained a friendly intercourse with the Residency and is most profuse of his professions of attachment to the Company yet I have often had occasion to suspect him of insincerity. I believe that to the last he espoused the interests of Malupat Ram and I have good grounds for supposing that he still corresponds with that person.

35 I do myself the honour to convey to your Lordship a translation of the Arzee which Sheyarool Moolk presented to the Nizam through the Nawab Begum widow of the late Azimool Omrah soliciting the appointment of Minister. The Nizam returned no answer to that Arzee and did not grant the request of Sheyaroo Dowlah for a private audience. Indeed the ascendancy of Moonirul Moolk was so great that Sheyaroo Dowlah soon relinquished all expectation of procuring the office of Prime Minister and turned at the renewal of the office of Vakil or Minister for foreign affairs. But not meeting with much encouragement upon that point he affects at present to look to nothing more than an increase of his personal Jagheer and the command of a large Russalah of horse. The fact is that Moonirul Moolk had so completely monopolized the good offices of the female attendants of the Mahal by his bribes and presents that it was not in the power of Sheyaroo Dowlah to convey an Arzee to the Nizam or to any of the principal Begums.

36 Within these few days Ihtusamul Moolk by the advice of his family has thought of aspiring to the Ministry but though a most worthy respectable character and an old and faithful servant of the state, he is now so infirm and decrepit that he is quite incapable of the active duties of so high an office. However Moonirul Moolk has manifested some jealousy of his views and has endeavoured to persuade the Nizam that Ihtusamool Moolk is nearly blind and that it would be charitable to relieve him of the duties of principal Moonshi and to dispense with his attendance at Durbar. During Meer Allum's life time Ihtusamool Moolk seldom went to Durbar except when he was particularly required in his official capacity leaving all the business of his office to be performed by his son Rashiduddoula. But since the Meer's death Ihtusamul Moolk has been regular in his attendance at Durbar which circumstance seems to have excited the jealousy of the Moonirul Moolk.

37 I understand that Mustikim Uddoula had addressed an Arzee to the Nizam soliciting in general terms His Highness's favour and protection but I do not know whether the Arzee reached the Nizam or whether if it did any answer was given to it. Mustakim Uddoula possesses more talent of a particular description than any Omrah at Hyderabad. He is very expert in intrigues and has great cunning address and worldly knowledge. There it

no Mootesuddie under the Government who is more thoroughly acquainted with the business and state of every department But he is void of all principle and is very tyrannical

38 I shall lose no time in submitting to your Lordship in a separate dispatch, statements of the several communications which have passed between the Nizam and myself relative to the appointment of a minister, and in forwarding to the Persian Department a Khureeta from His Highness to your Lordship upon that subject

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hyderabad
February 1809

T SYDENHAM,
Resident at Hyderabad

A No 1

On the evening of the 11th December the Nizam directed Chandu Lal to go to Shamsul Omrah and Umzadul Moolk and ask them what it would be prudent to do in the present conjuncture of affairs Rajah Chandu Lal went to Shamsul Omrah and proposed the question to him but Shamsul Omrah referred them to Umzadul Moolk who said "this a very delicate question, which cannot be answered immediately but I will think of it, and give you an answer tomorrow" However neither Umzadul Moolk nor Shamsul Omrah would state distinctly what they thought or wished, and the Nizam did not repeat the question

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,

First Assistant

A No 2

Soon after the death of Meer Allum, Umzadul Moolk sent me a message to the following purport That during the life-time of Meer Allum all the respectable Omrahs were confident that the Government of the country would be carried on in a manner suitable to the interests of the state But now they must look to me to watch over those interests That the selection of a proper successor to Meer Allum would be difficult, but he and his friends had no doubt of my advising the Nizam to confer the appointment on some trust-worthy person who would be acceptable to the Omrahs and would protect the inhabitants of the country

That he and his friends were soldiers, unaccustomed to political business or accounts, and who had no anxiety for the station of Minister He therefore hoped that I did not think of any of his party as a successor to Meer Allum That the day after the Meer's death, the Nizam had given him some encouragement to apply for the situation, but that both Shamsul Omrah and himself had thought it prudent to keep on one side, and not to interfere

I made a suitable reply and said I was much flattered by the good opinion of so respectable a party as the Pagah party. That I had no other object in view but the good of the country and the interests of the alliance and should give such advice to the Nizam as I thought most conducive to his advantage.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

A No 3

A few days after this the Mowlavi received a message from Jai Shankar Das the Paishkar of the Pagah Party to state that Shamsul Omrah and Umzadul Moolk did not require the situation of minister but they wished to know whether if it were offered to either of them I had any objection to their accepting it. That they would do nothing without my advice and consent.

I replied that I know of no objection to their accepting any situation of importance which might be offered to them but that I could make no promises until I had received the instructions of the Governor General.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No 4

On the evening of the 6th January Umzadul Moolk sent to me to say that he intended to address an Arzee to His Highness soliciting the situation of Minister for Shamsul Omrah. That he should communicate his intention to the Bukshee Begum and prevail upon her to deliver the Arzee to the Nizam.

That the regard which the Chief of the Pagah Party felt for me, and the confidence they had in my candour and justice had induced him to make an immediate and frank disclosure of their views to me. That they should enter into no intrigue to obtain the situation. If the Nizam chose to confer it upon them, it was well if not, they should not be displeased or disappointed. That they should not have thought of the situation if they conceived that the appointment of Shamsul Omrah would be disagreeable to me, because they were convinced of the necessity of a perfect cordiality between the Resident and the Minister. But hearing I took no interest in the promotion of any particular person and that I only required such a minister as would attend to the prosperity of the country and to the interests of their alliance they had thought it proper to advance their claims. That I knew their characters, and if I should be called upon by the Nizam for my opinion, they only wished me to tell His Highness what I really thought of them.

However if any circumstances with which they might be unacquainted should render me adverse to the promotion of their views, they requested I would tell them so, and they would not agitate their claims, they did not wish to solicit the situation, in opposition to my wishes, nor would they accept it if offered to them, without they were certain of my sanction and support

My reply to Umzadul Moolk was nearly as follows That every thing which I had heard of Umzadool Moolk and Shamsul Omrah had given me a very favourable opinion of their characters, and I had no doubt they would do credit to any office That I was not personally interested in the success of any person and only required an upright honest minister who had a proper sense of the benefit of the existing alliance and would contribute to the prosperity of the country That further I could only repeat what I had said on a former occasion that my conduct would be guided by the instructions which I should receive from Calcutta and by the wishes of the Nizam

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

A No 5

On the evening of the 7th of January Bukshi Begum took an opportunity of recommending Shamsul Omrah as a noble man, Omrah of distinguished birth and irreproachable conduct, whose family had always enjoyed, and deserved the confidence of the Asafia house That at present there was no person at court particularly celebrated for talent or experience in public business, and that in point of birth and rank and fidelity there was no person who has higher pretensions to the office of Minister than Shamsul Omrah

The Nizam replied that he admitted what the Begum had said That he had hitherto fixed upon no particular person for the office of Minister That his only wish was to find out a man capable of doing the duties of that office, and who would be acceptable to the British Government That he had communicated his sentiments to the Resident who had recommended him to address a letter on the subject to the Governor General, which he intended to do That in the letter it was his intention to allude to the advice which Rajah Chandu Lal had given to him That Chandu Lal had mentioned the name of Shamsul Omrah in the list of Omrahs That the pretensions, characters and capacities of those persons were perfectly known to the Resident, who would of course communicate his sentiments of them to the Governor General That the Governor General would give him such advice as he might judge, best for the interest of the state That he should take no other step but wait for the answer of the Governor General, and be directed by his advice

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

A No 6

The day before the Nizam sent the Khurrectah to the Governor General to the Resident he directed Mama Burrain to go to Umzadul Moolk and obtain his answers to the three following questions 1st Have you heard what has passed between Mowlvee Mir Ibn Ali and me and what do you think of it? 2nd Shall I send the Khurrectah to the Governor General or not? 3rd What arrangement do you think should be made regarding the appointment of a Minister?

To these questions Umzadul Moolk returned the following answers —

1st.—I have heard all that has passed between your Highness and the Mowlvee and I think that the Resident has given your Highness excellent advice and has proved his attachment to your person

2nd.—I think your Highness should lose no time in dispatching the Khurrectah to the Governor General because it is proper that the advice of your ally should be taken upon an arrangement of such importance

3rd.—I think Chandulal is the most capable and faithful servant your Highness has and as long as he is entrusted with the management of your affairs I think that the country will prosper He is also a friend to both Governments and he will contribute to the strengthening of the friendship between your Highness and the Company I am of opinion that your Highness should confer the situation of Minister on your eldest son and leave the Management of the country to Chandu Lal.

His Highness heard those.

B No 1

Substance of a conversation between His Highness the Nizam and Moonirul Moolk which took place on the 11th December 1808

Moonirul Moolk received His Highness the Nizam's command to attend the presence after sunset. He accordingly repaired thither at the appointed time. The Useel of Juhan Parwar Begum represented to him that it was His Highness's pleasure that he should communicate his thoughts to His Highness without reserve or concealment. Moonirul Moolk and Chandu Lal were much perplexed at this message, and begged to know on what subject His Highness wished Moonirul Moolk to address him. His Highness returned for answer that Moonirul Moolk should state all his views and sentiments. From the tenor of this communication Moonirul Moolk discovered that His Highness wished him to apply for the office of Minister. He accordingly sent in an application to that effect. His Highness after perusing the address sent for Moonirul Moolk alone into the Zanana. When Moonirul Moolk had paid his respects, His Highness requested to know what

he had to say on the subject of his address Moonirul Moolk observed that it was impossible for him to speak on the subject, that His Highness was his sovereign and that his office was "to carry His Highness's slippers" That this office had been hereditary in four generations of his family, that whatever His Highness did, was just and proper, and that if His Highness should honour him with the appointment of Minister, his life, property and family should be devoted to His Highness's service His Highness said "very well but there must be no interruption in the good understanding and friendship subsisting between the allied states" Moonirul Moolk replied that by the blessing of God this good understanding and friendship had attained a degree of stability which it was not in the power of any person to disturb, and that he who was guilty of the attempts, would be the only sufferer, that he had lived between four and five years with Meer Allum, and was well convinced that it was the earnest desire of Captain Sydenham and of all the officers of the Hon'ble Company's Government that His Highness's mind should void of anxiety and apprehension, and that His Highness's happiness and the prosperity of his country should increase daily and he swore by God and his prophet, and by his allegiance to his sovereign that his conduct should be strictly conformable to these principles His Highness was satisfied with these assurances and dismissed Moonirul Moolk, with instructions to repair with Rajah Chandulal to the presence on the following morning His Highness appeared in great spirit during this interview

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

B No 2

Substance of intelligences from the city, of the 13th December

On the night of the 13th instant Farzand Begum, the mother of Juhan Parwar Begum, who is His Highness the Nizam's wife sent to Jyniatoonissa Begum, the mother of His Highness, a written agreement from Moonirul Moolk which she requested might be forwarded to His Highness, who she trusted, would be induced to place every degree of confidence in Moonirul Moolk Furzand Begum further stated that she would be answerable that Moonirul Moolk would on every occasion consult His Highness's pleasure Jyniatoonissa Begum accordingly delivered this paper to her son, assured him that Furzand Begum would be responsible for the good conduct of Moonirul Moolk and requested that he might be appointed to the office of Minister His Highness observed to his mother that there were political matters in which she could have no pretensions to interfere and as for Farzand Begum, how was it possible for a person of her age to be answerable for the acts of Government, that until he had consulted the British Government who were the guarantees of the permanence of his prosperity and of the stability of his state, he could not confer the appointment

upon any person that he was confident that whatever might be his own inclinations on the subject the British Government would not oppose but acquiesce in them but that it was necessary and proper in the first instance to consult the British Government.

B (a)

Translation of an application from Moonrul Moolk to His Highness the Nizam for the office of Minister, dated 11th December

If your Highness with your accustomed favour towards your dependants should be pleased to honour me with the appointment of Minister my life and property shall be devoted to your Highness's service and I will never act against your Highness's wishes. Whatever may be your Highness's pleasure I shall strictly conform to on all occasions

Translation of a memorandum prepared by His Highness the Nizam to which Moonrul Moolk is required to subscribe

I will pay constant attention to the conduct of the affairs of the Government to the welfare of the inhabitants to the prosperity of the country and to the protection of the state from those who are hostile to its interests and I will guard against their deceitful and malicious insurrections I will consult His Highness's tranquillity by preventing complaints from reaching His Highness and I will preserve unimpaired all subsisting engagements Let His Highness's mind be perfectly at ease, on all these points.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL.

First Assistant.

B No. 3

Memorandum of the conversation which passed between Rajah Chandu Lal and Mowlvee Mir Ebn Ali on the night of the 21st December 1808

MOWLVEE The Resident since the death of Meer Allum has received various reports of the circumstances which have taken place relative to Moonrul Moolk Many of those reports are so contradictory that the Resident, relying on your veracity and attachment is extremely anxious to receive from you a particular account of all the circumstances within your knowledge, which led to the sudden change of the Nizam's disposition towards Moonrul Moolk The whole city is acquainted with the violent animosity which the Nizam has shown to Moonrul Moolk for the last three years and therefore his present partiality for the same person without any ostensible cause is the more extraordinary and required to be explained

RAJAH CHANDU LAL The Resident may depend upon my veracity and attachment, and I will freely communicate to you all I know upon this subject. Three or four days before the death

of Meer Allum, Moonirul Moolk sent for his sister Furzand Begum, under a pretence that she might see Mir Allum but in fact to commence through her means a negotiation for the succession to the Ministry. Moonirul Moolk said to his sister "you see the state of Meer Allum which is altogether hopeless, and he can scarcely live more than a week. After his death it will be necessary to appoint a successor to him. You know that Meer Allum has strong claims on the friendship and support of the British Government, and those claims will descend to me and my family. I have reason to know that the British Government is anxious that I should succeed Meer Allum and will recommend me for that purpose to the Nizam. To this recommendation it will be necessary for His Highness to pay attention. Whatever objections the Nizam may have to my person, he can have none to my birth, rank and character and connections. He will, therefore, have no plea for objecting to my appointment and whatever be his own sentiments, he will in the end be compelled to follow the advice of the British Government. I am sincerely anxious to avoid all contention and dispute, and I wish to appear to owe my elevation to the spontaneous selection of the Nizam. I, therefore, desire that you and my niece will urge the other Begums to espouse my cause, so that you may all combine to procure the appointment for me. There is no person at Hyderabad whose pretensions are superior to mine. There is no person who is so well acquainted with the customs, habits, and character of the English, their mode of conducting business, and the maxims of their Government. I shall be careful to carry on the administration of affairs in such a manner as shall give satisfaction to all parties. I will make a present to Jyniatoo Nissa Begum of two lacks of rupees, and to my niece Juhan Parwar Begum, of one lack and to Chandni Begum of fifty thousand rupees. I wish you to communicate all I have said to those Begums, and prevail upon them to suggest my appointment to the Nizam, so that the appointment may come from His Highness before any direct application in my favour comes to the Resident. Moonirul Moolk also sent messages to a similar effect to Jyniatoo Nissa Begum through Izzat Yar Khan. The Begums were satisfied with these arguments, and united in recommending the arrangement to the Nizam.

The arguments, which they employed with the Nizam, were nearly the following —

That Moonirul Moolk was a descendant from an old and respectable family, the different members of which had always held important situations under this Government. That his connection with His Highness, with Aristoojah and with Meer Allum would secure to him the support and assistance of the English. That when vacancy occurred, the English would certainly recommend Moonirul Moolk to be Minister, and would prefer him to any other Omrah about the Court. That it would be impossible for His Highness to oppose such a recommendation, because there

was no other Omrah who was better qualified for the office, or who from birth rank or connection had superior pretensions to it. On the contrary if His Highness would appoint Moonirul Moolk without waiting for my recommendation from the English it would make him their own and would give them a claim on his attachment and fidelity. It would likewise be acceptable to the English and would obviate all dispute, altercation and loss of dignity. That if Moonirul Moolk should be disappointed in his expectation the English would be displeased and Moonirul Moolk would become a violent enemy to the Nizam and it was difficult to say what he might not do with his influence and wealth supported and assisted by the English.

THIF MOWVEE In your conversation with the Nizam you proposed several arrangements for the future regulation of the Government of this country. What are your own sentiments upon those different arrangements and what do you imagine to be the real wishes of the Nizam upon the subject?

CHANDU LAL I am assured that the Nizam did never consent to any of his sons being appointed Willee Ahud though Chandni Begum is most anxious to procure that appointment for her eldest son.

2nd—I do not think that the Nizam will propose Shamsul Omrah for the situation of Minister because he has no opinion of Shamsul Omrah's understanding and the Rajah are too proud to solicit any office.

3rd—I hope that he will not appoint Sheyaroo Dowlah who is young, unexperienced and tyrannical. It would be impossible for me to hold my appointment under Sheyaroo Dowlah. If he were made Minister I should immediately retire from office.

4th—If the Nizam would attend to political concerns himself and would give no full authority to regulate the internal administration of the country I think the Government would go on very well. But I am afraid of making everybody my enemy and of getting into a thousand difficulties.

5th—On the whole it might be as well if Moonirul Moolk were appointed minister. I should not act under him with much confidence and I should require all the support which the Resident could conveniently give me.

The MOWLVEE I have no particular objection to him. In deed when I reflect upon the claims which Meer Allum the whole of his family the most distant of his relations, or the poorest of his servants have upon my good offices, I strongly wish that Moonirul Moolk may be appointed Minister. At other times when I reflect upon his character and disposition and recollect the several attempts which he made to deprive me of the confidence and good opinion of Meer Allum, and to drive me from my office, I feel alarmed to place myself so immediately within his power. He makes me the strongest assurances of his friendship and says that

he regards me as a brother, but I know his character too well, to place the slightest confidence in the sincerity of his professions, however, as long as I enjoy the friendship and support of the Resident, I hope it will not be in the power of Moonirul Moolk to injure me

A true copy.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

B No 4

Memorandum of the conversation which passed between Rajah Roop Lal and Mowlvee Ebn Ali on the night of the 12th of December

Shortly after the Mir's death the Mowlvee received a message from Rajah Roop Lal intimating his wish to see the Mowlvee privately. The Mowlvee, with the Resident's permission, met Roop Lal on the night of the 12th December, and the following conversation passed between them —

Rooplal began by speaking warmly in praise of Meer Allum, lamenting his death, and observing there was no person left at Hyderabad capable of succeeding him. He then praised, Rajah Chandu Lal, and said that although there was formerly some jealousy between them, they were now reconciled and were excellent friends. That Chandu Lal never interfered with him, and that the situation he held of Treasurer and the confidence with which he was treated by the Nizam, were sufficient to satisfy his ambition. That he required no further promotion, and only wished to remain as he was.

Roop Lal then said that it appeared probable that Moonirul Moolk would be appointed Minister, provided the Resident did not object to him, for certainly the Nizam would not appoint any person to that office who was objectionable to the British Government.

Roop Lal observed that he was afraid, Moonirul Moolk was not pleased with him, and suspected him of hostility at least of indifference. That if Moonirul Moolk should be appointed minister, he wished the Resident to bring about a perfect reconciliation between them. That from his constant attendance on the person of the Nizam and the confidence with which His Highness treated him he might be of some use to Moonirul Moolk. That he wanted nothing being perfectly satisfied with his present situation. That he looked to the Resident for favour and protection, and should be careful to supply the Resident constantly with accurate intelligence of every thing that passed at the palace and in the Mahal.

The Mowlavee asked Roop Lal what could have induced the Nizam to change his opinion so suddenly of Moonirul Moolk

Roop Lal replied that it was not so certain that the Nizam's real opinion of Moonirul Moolk has much changed though his Highness affected in public to be so well disposed towards him. That the sister and niece of Moonirul Moolk had prevailed upon Jyniatoo Nissa Begum and even Chandni Begum to interest themselves in favour of Moonirul Moolk. That Moonirul Moolk had promised all those ladies large sums of money if he succeeded and to attend to their several wishes after his appointment. That he had persuaded them that the British Government would recommend him to the Minister. That whatever might be the inclination of the Nizam he would be obliged to take any minister that the British Government chose to recommend and therefore it would be better to appoint him at once.

The women employed these arguments with the Nizam as Moonirul Moolk is connected with His Highness with Aristoojah and with Meer Allum and as there is no Omrah at Hyderabad whose pretensions are superior to those of Moonirul Moolk the Nizam thought it prudent to follow the advice of the women.

Roop Lal stated that Moonirul Moolk had applied to him for assistance and that he had done what he could to promote his success. That both Moonirul Moolk and his brother Aminul Moolk had been very active in securing the good will and assistance of every person who is supposed to have any influence either with the Nizam or his women.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,

First Assistant.

B No 5

Intelligence procured from the Mahal on the 16th of December

Although formerly the Nizam never mentioned the name of Moonirul Moolk to dislike him very much yet that person has contrived to produce an alteration in His Highness's disposition by the following methods —

1st — By securing the support and assistance of Jyniatoo Nissa Begum by promising to bring forward Rajah Rajandra and if possible by giving him a share in public business.

and — By employing the strongest profession of devotion and attachment to the Nizam. He said that both Meer Allum and Chandu Lal were quite subservient to the British Government and frequently concealed papers of importance and public accounts from His Highness's inspection. That Chandu Lal Govind Bukh and the several Mooteesuddies under them owed the Sirkar more than a crore of rupees, and he can prove that balance against them if he were made minister. He then took a Koran and placed it on

his head and swore that he would be the slave of His Highness and would never act contrary to His Highness's orders and wishes that he would conceal nothing from him with many asseverations of the same kind

The Nizam listened to all he said, but made no reply and soon afterwards retired to his sleeping apartment.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

B No 6

21st December 1808

The Chandu Begum sent word to say that the Nizam when along with her had addressed her to the following effect —

You perhaps are surprized at the preference which I give to Moonirul Moolk. But in fact I am not favourably inclined towards him, still dislike him as much as ever. He assures me that he will realize for me one crore of rupees, by a particular adjustment of the public accounts. I am waiting to see how he intends to fulfil his promise, and when I have satisfied myself on that point I shall put him in a level (barabar) with the other Omrahs

B No 7

30th December 1808

Rooplal sent word that Moonirul Moolk addressed an Arzee to the Nizam, proposing that the Mootesuddies of the different departments should attend and transact their business at his house. This Arzee was conveyed to the Nizam by an Asseel named Mama Amina. The Nizam was much offended at this Arzee, drove Aseel from his presence, and desired another person to tell Moonirul Moolk that he had no concern with the Mootesuddies that they were to attend at the palace with Chandu Lal and carry on their business under his superintendence

On the same day I heard from a respectable person in the Mahal, that Mama Amina had been prohibited from waiting on the Nizam in future

The day afterwards I heard that when Chandu Lal quitted the palace with Moonirul Moolk, the Nizam enquired whether Chandu Lal was in waiting. When His Highness was informed that Chandu Lal had retired as usual, with Moonirul Moolk, he said angrily "What has Chandu Lal to do with Moonirul Moolk. He is to attend Durbar regularly and not to retire till I give him leave, and he is not to come and go with Moonirul Moolk"

B No 8

10th January 1809

Rajah Roop Lal sent me word that Juhan Pawar Begum told the Nizam that she was surprized His Highness did not think of promoting Rajah Roop Lal to the situation of Paishkar, who had

always enjoyed his confidence before he ascended the musnud was entrusted with all his domestic concerns and was much attached to His Highness. She added Chandu Lal is a stranger to you is not exact in his accounts keeps many things from your knowledge and is a mere servant of the Resident

The Nizam appeared to listen to this so favourably that Juhan Parwar Begum sent to Roop Lal to enquire whether he would wish to be Paishkar as she had no doubt of being able to procure that office for him

Roop Lal replied that he was perfectly satisfied with his present situation and did not aspire to the office of Paishkar which was already in the possession of the person most worthy of it. That he therefore begged the Begum would not think of agitating that subject as it was contrary to his inclination and might bring him into danger

Roop Lal further states that Moonirul Moolk pays him particular attention and has sent for him twice or thrice privately. That although nothing particular passed still that Moonirul Moolk told him that this was the time to unite and push their interests together and that he hoped if he obtained the office of Minister that they would be associated (Sharik) in the management of affairs.

True copies

CHARLES RUSSELL,

First Assistant

C

Statement of the various communications that have passed between the Resident and the two Begums Bukshree Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum

But previously to entering upon this statement it may be useful to convey some information respecting Kadir Nawaz Khan Izzat Yar Khan and Syed Himayat Ali

Kadir Nawaz Khan and Izzat Yar Khan are both physicians and are first cousins to one another

The Jyniatoo Nissa Begum mother of the present Nizam, was a slave girl of Bukshree Begum's and when she became a favourite of the late Nizam's she discovered or pretended to discover that she was related to the father of Kadir Nawaz Khan. That person was of course very willing to acknowledge a relationship which promised so much advantage to his family and since that period, the Begum has always called the old man her father and his son Kadir Nawaz Khan her brother

The three physicians who attended the Begums are Kadir Nawaz Khan Izzat Yar Khan and Syed Himayat Ali. But the former is most frequently employed and often visits Jyniatoo Nissa Begum, over whom he is said to possess considerable influence.

Izzat Yar Khan is the principal physician of the Nizam, and has been dignified by the title of Hakimul Moolk. He is also Sudderoo Soodoor, is much esteemed as a scholar, but is known to be of a vicious intriguing disposition. He is the confidential friend and adviser of Moonirul Moolk and manages all his intercourse with Jyniatoo Nissa Begum.

Syed Himayat Ali is a poor, modest, unassuming man, who bears an excellent character, and though a native of this country has travelled over most parts of Hindostan, Arabia, Egypt and Persia.

1st Syed Himayat Ali called upon the Mowlvee and said he was directed by Bukshee Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum to convey the following message to the Resident —

That as long as Meer Allum was alive, they felt no anxiety about public affairs knowing that he was much attached to the Nizam and perfectly capable of conducting the Government. That from Meer Allum, as well as from public report, they had received the most favourable account of my character and disposition and were convinced that I had a sincere attachment to the Asophia family. Now that Meer Allum was no more, they naturally looked to me as the guardian of the state, and they depended upon my conducting the affairs of Government in such a way as would promote the interests of the Nizam and increase my own reputation.

That they were desirous of establishing a confidential intercourse, with me, in order that we might occasionally consult upon public affairs. That they considered me as a son of their own and a brother of the Nizam's, that they admired truth and plain dealing and requested I would communicate to them my sentiments without reserve. That I must be well acquainted with the character of the Nizam, and that if I found him obstinate they would give him advice and persuade him to attend to whatever I might recommend. On the other hand they hoped I would listen to their suggestions and conform to their wishes. They had sent Pārdāns to me of which they requested I would accept, as a mark of their regard and confidence.

I directed the Mowlvee to desire Himayat Ali to make my respects to the Begums and to assure them that I felt much honoured by their confidence and much flattered by their favourable opinion unreservedly upon the state of affairs and that if I should ever require the support of their influence, I should be happy to avail myself of it with the conviction of its being irresistible over the mind of the Nizam. That we were accustomed to truth, frankness and plain dealing and that they might depend upon my attachment to the house of Assofia. That we had no other object in view but to preserve the present alliance unimpaired and to contribute to the prosperity and security of this state. That we entertained no design hostile to the dignity or authority of the Nizam, or to the honour of his family and nobles, or to the happiness and ease of his subjects.

That I should be happy to do everything in my power to prove my attachment and respect to the Begums on all proper and justifiable occasions but I hoped they would not exact from me any service which might be inconsistent with my public duty or injurious to the real interests of the state

That I accepted their pandans with suitable feelings of gratitude and begged they would always consider me as one of their son But I ventured to suggest to them the propriety of the Nizam being made acquainted with their intention of establishing an intercourse with me because I made it a rule of conduct not to keep any part of my proceedings concealed from His Highness

The Mowlee endeavoured to ascertain what particular objects the Begums had immediately in view because it was impossible that I should bind myself to my obligations of doing all that they required Himayat Ali said that I could guess at the two objects but would afford no further explanation The two objects at which he hinted are evidently the enlargement of Ragotum Rao and the recall of Mumtazool Omrah

And A few days after this the Begums sent a message to the Mowlee desiring him to get at a certain time to a particular garden near the city where he would meet Mama Champa their confidential Aseel

The Mowlee in consequence of this message, repaired to the garden at the appointed hour and met Mama Champa waiting for him

She told him that the Begums were well satisfied with the answer which I had sent to them through Syed Himayat Ali whom I was to consider as their confidential messenger and to whom I might safely entrust all I have to communicate to them Mama Champa then made several indirect observations regarding the immediate wishes of the Begums but though she could not be prevailed upon to speak plainly she evidently alluded to Rajah Rajendar and Mumtazul Omrah

The Mowlee repeated general assurances of my sincere desire to pay attention to the wishes of the Begums but frankly declared that there were some transactions in which I could not possibly engage That I would willingly promote any object that was for the real interests of the Nizam, but must decline countenancing any plan which might be injurious to those interests

Mama Champa desired the Mowlee to acquaint me that the Nizam was informed of the intention of the Begums to establish a confidential intercourse with me She likewise said that Jynatoo Nissa Begum was very anxious that Moonirul Moolk should be appointed Minister That he was a friend to both Governments, and one of their own family

31d The Mowlvee received a separate message from Jyniatoo Nissa Begum through Kadir Nawaz Khan who called at the Residency and said many things to the same purport, as Himayat Ali and Mama Champa

Kadir Nawaz enquired what person I was desirous should be made Minister, as the Begums would undertake to procure the appointment for any person that I chose. He also said that both the Begums were favourably inclined towards Moonirul Moolk whom they considered a friend to both states

4th On the 11th of January Sayed Himayat Ali called again upon the Mowlvee and said that Rajendra had not been guilty of any positive crime, that suspicions had been excited against him which had produced his disgrace, dismissal and confinement, that he had suffered severely for whatever he might have committed, that the best men in the world were liable to error, and that it was to mercy to forgive what had passed. That the Begums themselves would be responsible for the future good conduct of Rajendra. That they did not wish to exalt him to any situation. All they required was that he might be permitted to leave his house and occasionally to attend the Dubai. That the Nizam was solicitous for his enlargement and that Moonirul Moolk would not object to it

I desired the Mowlvee to tell Himayat Ali that as the Begums had at length declared their wish I would not deceive them but acquaint them at once that I would never consent to the enlargement of Rajendra. That I could not imagine the Nizam should be solicitous for his release and as far as Moonirul Moolk, it was of little consequence whether he did, or did not, object to it. Indeed I was ignorant what right he possessed to offer any opinion upon such a subject

The Mowlvee enquired which of the two Begums were most interested about Rajendra, or whether they were equally so. Himayat Ali replied that Bukshee Begum took little concern in public business, that Jyniatoo Nissa Begum was in fact the advocate of Rajendra, and that she had persuaded Bukshee Begum to allow of her name being used in the occasion

5th Kadir Nawaz Khan called upon the Mowlvee on the night of the 1st of January and delivered the following message from Jyniatoo Nissa Begum

That friendship were of two kinds. One fictitious and the other real. That the former consisted of the interchange of compliments and polite enquiries. The latter of doing such things as are agreeable to one another. That the friendship which the Begum wished to establish with the Resident is of the latter description and she only required some proof of a similar disposition on the part of the Resident. The Mowlvee enquired what the proofs should consist of. Kadir Nawaz would not mention in direct terms, but hinted plainly enough at the enlargement of Rajendra

I directed the Mowlee to tell Kadir Nawaz that no consideration should induce me to deviate from my public duty that if the Begum really meant the enlargement of Rajendra I could not comply with her wishes but that I should at all times be ready to do anything that was agreeable to the Begum and not inconsistent with the duty which I owed to the Nizam as well as to the Government I represented I begged she would consider this as final answer upon that subject and that she would abstain from any further recommendation of Rajendra

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

D

Translation of an Ar-ee from Nazab Begum the wife of the late Ghulam Syed Khan, to His Highness the Nizam

We who are the slaves and dependants of your Highness constantly implore the almighty disposer of gifts to diffuse over our heads the shadow of your Highness in all its splendour and glory Your faithful and devoted servant Shah Yarool Moolk is desirous of making certain representations to your Highness

Translation of an Ar-ee from Shah Yarool Moolk to His Highness the Nizam enclosed in the above address

Every part of the conduct of the Ministers of your Highness Government for three or four years past is manifest to your enlightened mind Under the divine aid your Highness's prosperity will increase and the affairs of your Government will be conducted in the manner most agreeable to your Highness and most conformable to the wishes of your sincere dependants and I am convinced that the representations of the Hon'ble Company's Government to whom your Highness favour is extended will pay due deference to your Highness's interests. I have presumed to touch upon those subjects in a brief manner If your Highness will honour me with a private audience, I will enter upon them largely

True copies

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant

Letter No 16.—The enclosure No 1 to this covering note is important. It is a copy of Sydenham's address, to the Governor General, dated 6th February 1809. In this address Sydenham again discusses the claims of the aspirants to the office of Prime Minister refers to the Nizam's inclination to revive the office of Vakeel and closes by intimating that the Nizam

to the prosperity of his country and to the interests of the alliance. For the terms in which that message was conveyed I begged leave to refer your Lordship to the 7th paragraph of No. 1 of the accompanying papers. I also gave the Mowlvie particular instructions cautiously to avoid any declaration on my part but to draw the Nizam to an unreserved communication of his sentiments.

6. Your Lordship will remark that the Nizam appeared to balance on his choice between Moonirul Moolk and Sheyaroo Dowlah though perhaps with some degree of preference to the former. His Highness also hinted at a renewal of the old office of Vakil or person especially appointed to conduct the intercourse between the Resident and the Durbar perhaps with a view of providing for both the Omrahs in question.

7. The decision between the comparative merits of the two persons whom His Highness thought had the strongest claims on his favour rested entirely with himself and if I had declared any positive opinion upon the subject I have little doubt that His Highness's choice would have been determined by that opinion. Being thus called upon I thought it expedient to avoid any declaration of my sentiments and to advise His Highness to refer the subject to your Lordship's consideration.

8. The right of the British Government to interpose its influence in the selection of a successor to the office of the Prime Minister had been acknowledged by the Nizam not only by his general language but by the reference which he made to me through my principal Moonshi. If any part of that right had been exercised by the Resident our proceedings might have been attributed to partiality, private views or to motives even of a more doubtful nature. It therefore appeared to me more suitable to the importance of the subject to advise the Nizam to refer it to the consideration of the Governor General in a letter from himself written expressly for that purpose. This procedure not only leaves our right of interference perfectly clear and unimpaired but it renders the exercise of that right much more public and formal. I would also be attended with the further advantage of giving us time to ascertain the real inclination of the Nizam towards the several candidates and an opportunity of judging whether the influence, which Moonirul Moolk in particular had acquired would be as permanent as it was sudden and unexpected.

9. For the arguments which were employed to prevail upon the Nizam to address a letter to your Lordship on the subject of the arrangements for a new administration I beg leave to refer to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report No. 8 in the accompanying papers.

10. The renewal of the office of any distinct channel of intercourse between the Residency and the Durbar appeared to me to be unnecessary and likely to be productive of much future inconvenience. It is quite unnecessary because all affairs of importance are transacted by the Resident himself either with the

Minister or the Nizam in person and all matters of mere detail are managed with ease and facility by the principal Moonshies of the Resident and the Minister. It might be productive of future inconvenience by exciting jealousy between the Minister and the Vakeel, by encouraging that practice of secret and separate intrigues of which there is already too much at this corrupt court, and by rendering the Minister less dependant on the advice and control of the Resident. If the Vakeel were a man of ordinary rank and condition in life immediately subordinate to the Minister, there could be no advantage gained by the creation of an office of which the duties can be just as well carried on by our Moonshies. If the Vakeel were an Omiah of rank, who enjoyed the confidence of the Nizam, then the creation of the office would be likely to produce the inconvenience which I have mentioned. Such is the importance which is attached to the intercourse between the Residency and the Durbai and such the consequence and influence which it confers upon the person who conducts it. That I am well assured that most of the Omrahs would prefer the situation of Vakeel to that of Minister, if their Offices were made distinct, and so much must every minister depend upon the support and assistance of the Resident, that I doubt whether any person of rank and prudence, would willingly accept the office of the Minister, if it were not connected with the entire management of all public intercourse with the Resident. It would be vain to say that the office of Vakeel should be made subordinate to that of Prime Minister, for in the present situation of affairs of two Omiahs nearly of equal rank and pretensions, were appointed to those offices the person who held that of Vakeel would soon rise superior to the Minister in consideration and influence.

11 From all these considerations I thought proper to discourage the renewal of this office, and your Lordship will observe that the Nizam acceded to the justice to the opinion which I directed the Mowlvee to communicate to him upon that subject.

12 If the selection of a successor to Meer Allum rested entirely between Moonirul Moolk and Sheyaroo Dowlah, there can be no doubt that the preference ought to be given to the former, but still, as I had resolved to persuade the Nizam to refer the subject to your Lordship, I thought it becoming to avoid any positive declaration of my sentiments respecting the character and pretensions of those Omiahs. Notwithstanding this I authorized the Mowlvee to let the Nizam understand in an indirect and delicate manner, that of the two Omiahs in question, I should prefer the appointment of Moonirul Moolk to that of Sheyaroo Dowlah.

13 Your Lordship will remark that the result of the second conference which my Mowlvee had with the Nizam was perfectly satisfactory and that His Highness very cheerfully consented to the propriety of his addressing a letter to your Lordship respecting the appointment of a successor to the late minister.

14. His Highness deliberated for a long time on the terms in which he should address your Lordship. Many drafts of letters were prepared but none suited His Highness's fancy and during this period he was recommended by his physicians to make an excursion in the country for the benefit of his health. While he was out in this excursion he passed most of his time in hunting and other amusements appeared to be in the most cheerful temper and seemed to forget all public business. As the Government continued to be conducted in its usual routine and with perfect regularity under the superintendence of Rajah Chandu Lal there was no immediate necessity for urging the Nizam to carry into effect his intention of writing to your Lordship and indeed I was anxious that every step in the arrangement for a ministry should be well considered by the Nizam himself and should seem to proceed from His Highness's uninfluenced judgment. I heard that His Highness had conceived some doubts of the propriety of addressing a letter to your Lordship but I could not ascertain whether they arose from a reluctance to acknowledge in so formal a manner the right of the British Government to direct His Highness's judgment in the choice of a minister or from a notion that such a step would be contrary to custom and Punctilio to both of which His Highness pays great regard. However I did not re-agitate the subject till the 4th of January when I sent the Mowlvee to His Highness to enquire whether he has made up his mind respecting the terms in which the letter was to be written and when he intended to dispatch it.

15. The paper No 3 contains a report of what passed on that occasion between the Nizam and my Mowlvee. His Highness did not express any objection to write the proposed letter but seemed to be afraid of doing something informal and unusual. He also made Chandu Lal recapitulate in the presence of the Mowlvee the substance of the conversation which passed between them the day after Meer Allum's death respecting several arrangements for a new administration a report of which conversation I had the honour to convey to your Lordship and he was very pointed in declaring that he was indifferent as to any particular mode of arrangement and was only desirous that such a mode should be adopted as might be beneficial to the mutual interests of the two states. He mentioned the names neither of Moonirul Moolk nor of Shevaroo Dowlah and the object of his declaration to the Mowlvee, which immediately followed the relation of Chandu Lal's conversation was evidently to give your Lordship a choice amongst the several plans, that were suggested by the Rajah.

16. The fact is, that the Nizam from the result of his former conference with the Mowlvee and from other circumstances was in some degree assured that we felt no particular interest respecting the nomination of Moonirul Moolk at least, that we should not urge it against His Highness's declared will. As Moonirul Moolk was present at the last conference, it could not be expected that His Highness should make any more explicit declaration of his

indifference towards that person's appointment, but his intention was evident enough, when it is considered that Moonirul Moolk's name was only classed according to his rank in the long list of Omrahs which included almost every person of any rank or respectability at the Court

17 There can be no doubt that Jyniatoo Nissa Begum withdrew her support from Moonirul Moolk when she discovered that it was quite out of her power to perform his promise of assisting the views of Rajah Rajendra and Chandni Begum was certainly prevailed upon the favour of Moonirul Moolk's promotion under the supposition that it would be the best mode of securing the interests of Chandu Lal. But she detected Moonirul Moolk's attempts to injure the character of Chandu Lal in the opinion of the Nizam for His Highness spoke to her unreservedly respecting the accusations which Moonirul Moolk preferred against Chandu Lal, and the wish expressed by Juhan Parwar Begum to procure the situation of Paishkar for Rajah Roop Lal. Since that period, Chandni Begum who has more influence over the Nizam than any other of the women about him, has discontinued her support in favour of Moonirul Moolk and both this Begum and Jyniatoo Nissa Begum have united to persuade the Nizam to make his eldest son by Chandni Begum, Wallee Ahud

18 After the Nizam's return to the city he was engaged in preparing with his own hand the draft of a letter to your Lordship, and when he had satisfied himself upon the forms in which the letter should be written he required the attendance of my Mowlvee who accordingly waited upon His Highness on the 10th of January. I have made out a statement of the conversation which passed between them and which is reported in No. 4 of the papers attached to the present dispatch

19 His Highness appeared to be still apprehensive of the informality of addressing the first letter to your Lordship on such a subject as the appointment of a minister. His Highness did not appear to doubt the propriety of consulting your Lordship's wishes, but hesitated merely on the mode of doing it. But the assurances made in my name by the Mowlvee, together with the arguments employed in the 5th paragraph of the report No. 4 completely satisfied His Highness, who promised to admit of no further delay in the dispatch of the letter

20 However before the letter was sent to me, His Highness consulted his mother and Chandni Begum respecting the propriety of writing such a letter to the Governor-General. The former said that she would take the subject into her consideration and give His Highness a reply the following day. In this interval she sent to consult Rajah Rajendra who, I believe, was adverse to the measure and the Begum consequently objected to it. The Chandni Begum advised the Nizam to dispatch the letter without loss of time. In this dilemma the Nizam determined to take the opinion

of Umjudool Moolk whose advice was so favourable to the dispatch of the letter that His Highness no longer hesitated but sent the Khurectah to me the following morning

21 I shall do myself the honour to transmit His Highness's Khurectah to the Persian Department by this day's post

22 I can venture to assure your Lordship that the letter which the Nizam has addressed to you is entirely of His Highness's own composition. The draft was made out in his own hand and was sent to be copied by Rashiduddowla the son of Ihtisamul Moolk. The first paragraph alluded to the representations made by Rajah Chandu Lal which His Highness was so anxious should be particularly explained to your Lordship

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Hyderabad

I SYDI NIHAM

The 6th February 1809.

Resident at Hyderabad

Report by Moulce Mir Fnu Ali of which passed at the Durbar on the morning of the 22nd December

I went into an interior apartment in the Mahal where the Nizam was sitting with Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal Zeenahool Moolk (the Arz Begue) and two servants were in attendance. At some distance there were some female servants and as there were Kanauts placed behind the Musnud I conjecture that some of the Begums were sitting in the other side of them.

After I had been ordered to sit down His Highness desired Zeenahool Moolk and the servants to retire and he told Moonirul Moolk to approach the Musnud. After making enquiries after the Resident's health the Nizam turned towards Moonirul Moolk and directed him to mention certain circumstances to me.

3 Moonirul Moolk accordingly addressed me, and said that during the administration of Ghulam Syed Khan and Meer Abool Kasim there were many papers which required the signature of the minister and His Highness wished to know what was to be done with similar papers at present.

4 I replied that His Highness would of course determine upon that according to his will and pleasure.

5 His Highness said no. Do you tell me what ought to be done. I ask your advice and request that you will give me your opinion without reserve.

6 I answered that His Highness's question was connected with certain circumstances which the Resident had desired me to represent to His Highness. That as these circumstances were of a delicate nature, and suited only to His Highness's ear, I begged he would permit me to communicate them to him in private. Upon this His Highness ordered Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal to retire to the furthest end of the room. I approached the Musnud and spoke as follows

7 The Resident is of opinion that a powerful and extensive Government requires a Minister, and that your Highness should think of some person to fill the office, which has been left vacant by the death of Meer Abool Kasim. The selection and appointment rest with your Highness, but of course the British Government has a right to expect that your Highness's choice should fall upon a person properly qualified for that important and difficult office, who is acquainted with the forms of conducting business between two powerful states, and who is disposed to contribute to the stability of that alliance which connects your Highness with the British Government. The Governor-General, who naturally feels the most lively interest in the welfare of your Highness's state, will be anxious to be made acquainted with your Highness's intentions upon this subject. The Resident participates on that anxiety and has desired me to say that he has no doubt that your Highness's choice of a successor will be such as will do credit to your wisdom and judgment.

8 The Nizam replied, there are two offices to be thought of, one that which is properly called the Diwani, and the other the Wakalat or office of foreign affairs. There are two persons, who from their services, have the strongest claims upon the state. I mean Ghulam Syed Khan and Meer Abdul Kadir. Their dependants therefore are the best entitled to my favour. Of the principal descendants of both those persons which do you think the most worthy of preference. Neither of them, I am assured are likely to become dangerous to the interests of the alliance.

9 I replied that His Highness's question was of so delicate a nature, that I did not feel myself at liberty to reply to it. But I would communicate it to the Resident and convey his reply to His Highness.

10 The Nizam said that do you think what will be the Resident's answer. I replied that I could not exactly say, as I had never heard the Resident express any opinion on the comparative merits of the persons to whom His Highness alluded.

11 The Nizam enquired what degree of confidence the Resident placed in me. I answered that on such subjects as the present, I had only to communicate to the Nizam what the Resident said and to the Resident what His Highness might say.

12 The Nizam observed I speak to you as a friend and wish to ascertain your opinion. I replied that His Highness did me too great an honour that I was not authorized to declare any opinion of my own upon so delicate a subject and I could not venture to step beyond my instructions. His Highness was the best judge of the relative merits of his own servants and I was a stranger to them.

13 The Nizam said that certainly Moonirul Moolk was a man of experience and wisdom and after a short pause, His Highness added nor is Sheyarool Moolk deficient in under standing.

14. Presently afterwards His Highness said suppose we propose the question to both of them. I observed that I thought it quite unnecessary to propose such a question to the persons themselves. His Highness should weigh in his own mind their relative merits and pretensions and determine who was most worthy of preferment.

15 His Highness then called Moonirul Moolk to him and said the Mowlvee tells me that the Resident proposes a minister should be appointed who bears a good character who is skilled in business, who is acquainted with the mutual interests of both states and whose appointment would do me credit. This is exactly what I told you and I desire that you will relate to the Mowlvee what passed between us on this subject.

16 Moonirul Moolk related what had passed which coincided exactly with the report that was sent to the Resident on the 11th of the month. He afterwards went on to profess his attachment and devotion to the Nizam and his resolution to promote the prosperity of the country and the friendship between the allied states.

17 The Nizam said that Sheyar Dowlah had applied for the office of Minister and had made similar professions to him. That he had heard Shamsool Omrah would not decline the situation and was one of the principal and most trustworthy officers under the Government. Turning round to Chandu Lal His Highness asked did you not mention this to me. Chandu Lal replied that he did mention the name of Shamsool Omrah with those of the other principal Omrahs at Court but made no particular remark regarding him.

18 His Highness then said to me you see how matters stand at present. You will communicate to the Resident all that has passed between us and you will come to me tomorrow to let me know what he says upon the subject. I have told you without any reserve all that has passed in my mind and I am assured the Resident will be equally unreserved with me, and will give me such advice as he thinks most conducive to my interest and the welfare of my state.

*Report of the Mowlvée, of what passed at Durbar on the morning
of the 23rd December 1808*

I found the Nizam in the same room, with the same persons and servants as yesterday.

2 His Highness enquired with an appearance of anxiety whether I had brought from the Resident any answer to the question which he had put to me yesterday. I replied that I would do myself the honour to represent to His Highness what I had been charged to say on that subject, if he would permit us to be quite private. His Highness immediately ordered Moonirul Moolk, Chandu Lal, and the attendants, to retire, after which, I stated that yesterday at noon I had communicated to the Resident every word that His Highness had said to me, that the Resident had taken it all down in writing and desired me to wait upon him in the evening. That in the evening I attended the Resident, who directed me to make the following reply to His Highness.

3 That the Resident was much gratified and honoured by the confidence which the Nizam reposed in him, that he would be careful to offer no opinion, which he did not believe to be for the benefit of His Highness. That His Highness's question lead to a decision upon an arrangement of peculiar delicacy and importance upon which the Resident was reluctant to offer a determinate opinion, until he had first consulted the sentiments of the Governor-General. That he was only the medium of communication between His Highness and the Governor-General and that on all occasions which admitted of a reference, it was his especial duty to consult the Governor-General and to be directed by his Lordship's instructions. That owing to the wisdom of His Highness and the merits of Chandu Lal, affairs were in so favourable a state, that no inconvenience or danger would arise from a short delay, and that the present subject demanded and admitted of the fullest deliberation. If circumstances had been such as to require an immediate decision, the Resident would have offered his advice, honestly and unreservedly, to the best of his judgment, and in consonance with those general principles, which regulate the conduct of the British Government in India. But there was no necessity for an immediate decision, and therefore, the Resident was extremely anxious to refer the subject to the wisdom of the Governor-General in Council.

4 That His Highness might be assured that the Governor-General would give the subject his most serious attention, and would offer such advice, as he, in his conscience, thought most suitable to the times, and most conducive to the honour and dignity of the Nizam, the prosperity and welfare of the country and to mutual interests of the two states. That His Highness was of course at entire liberty to choose his own servants, but where an appointment was of such essential consequence to the harmony and good understanding of both Governments and which required so much knowledge of their relative interests, it was extremely proper to obtain a knowledge of the sentiments of the Governor-General before His

His Highness proceeded to confer it upon any particular person. That the Governor-General would be much pleased and flattered at so unquestionable a proof of His Highness's confidence and friendship and of His Highness's anxiety to consult the interests and wishes of the British Government. From all these considerations the Resident seriously recommended the Nizam to suspend his determination until he had consulted the Governor-General and he thought that the most becoming and formal mode of consulting his Lordship would be by addressing a letter to his Lordship on the subject.

5 His Highness listened with great attention to the whole of this message and said that the Resident's advice was extremely proper and judicious and such as might be expected from his prudence knowledge and attachment. That he entirely approved of what the Resident had recommended and would immediately conform to it.

6 His Highness enquired which of the two persons he had mentioned yesterday the Resident thought best qualified for the situation of Minister and what he had said regarding the two officers of Dewan and Wakil.

7 I replied that with regard to the latter question the Resident had expressed himself his opinion nearly in the following manner.

8 The appointment of a Wakil for the express purpose of carrying on the public intercourse with the British Resident, was well adapted to former circumstances and to the nature of the connection as it then subsisted between the two states. That it was conferred upon Meer Abool Kasim because he was particularly well versed in political knowledge and was acquainted with the forms and customs of the English at a time when they were not familiar to people at Hyderabad. But the nature of present connection which completely united the interests of the both states no longer required such a situation distinct from the dewan. In fact the appointment of Wakil had ceased to exist since the year 1798 from which time all business had been carried on between the Resident and the Minister. That since Captain Sydenham's arrival at Hyderabad all affairs of importance had been transacted with the Nizam in person or with the Minister and all matters of more detail had been managed through the agency of the Moonshes of the Resident and Minister. That Captain Sydenham was desirous to continue that mode of transacting business because he thought it the most direct simple, certain and satisfactory to both parties. That in his opinion therefore the Wakil as a separate and distinct appointment was unnecessary and might be inconvenient.

9. His Highness desired that what the Resident said upon this subject was perfectly just but he wished to know what was the Resident's opinion of the comparative merits of Moonirul Moolk and Sheyarpoo Doulah.

10 I replied that I was not authorized to make any communication upon that subject, and indeed the Resident appeared reluctant to offer any opinion, that might lead His Highness to conceive that he was personally interested in the promotion of either of those persons

11 His Highness replied that he was assured the Resident could have no other object in view than the real interests of the state, that he was desirous to ascertain the Resident's private opinion of those persons, and requested with much earnestness that I would give him some general notion of the Resident's sentiments on that subject

12 I then observed that without entering into a particular comparison of their merits, the Resident had remarked that Sheyaroo Dowlah was still young and perfectly inexperienced in public business, and that never having conversed with Sheyaroo Dowla it was impossible for the Resident to judge how far he was qualified for the highest office in the state Moonirul Moolk was more advanced in years, and had been in some degree accustomed to business and that being well known to the Resident, he would naturally feel more confidence in transacting business with Moonirul Moolk than with a perfect stranger

13 His Highness assented to the justice of this remark, and terminated the conversation by saying that he would reflect upon the terms in which he should write to the Governor-General, that being a subject of great delicacy and importance it required deliberation, but that the Resident might in the mean time, be assured that His Highness would take no step without the previous advice of the Resident

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,

First Assistant

Report of Mowlvee Meer Ebn Ali, of what passed when he waited on the Nizam at Umberpeth the 4th of January

1 I went to an open verandah on the outside of the garden wall, where I found Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandulal After waiting a short time we were summoned to attend the Nizam, whom we found in a small tent within the garden

2 Rajah Chandulal represented to His Highness that the family of Mahipat Ram had arrived at the Tarbund near the city and that he thought they had better come to the Foundry on the north side of the river, to be delivered over to the officer who was to escort them to Benares His Highness replied that it would be very proper and then addressing himself to me, made many enquiries of the city of Benares and the river Ganges

3 After speaking upon these and other indifferent subjects His Highness enquired what I had to say to him I answered that I was desired by the Resident to put His Highness in mind of the

letter which His Highness had consented to write to the Governor General respecting the appointment of a successor to Meer Allum. That the Resident thought the subject too important to be dropped and if His Highness still intended to write to the Governor-General upon it the sooner the letter was prepared and dispatched the better

4 His Highness said that he admitted the propriety of the Resident's advice and would follow it but that on a former occasion no such letter had been written by him to Lord Wellesley on the contrary his Lordship had first written a letter to His Highness respecting the appointment of a successor to Ghulam Syed Khan, and therefore His Highness was afraid of doing any thing on the present occasion which might be thought informal or unusual

5 I replied that different circumstances required a different measures that there would be nothing improper or informal in His Highness's writing a letter to consult the Governor-General respecting an arrangement which was of such material consequence to both states. On the contrary the Governor-General would be much pleased with His Highness for having shown so much solicitude to obtain his advice before he proceeded to make any appointment and it was with this view that the Resident had recommended the measure to His Highness's notice.

6 His Highness then said I may write this letter without any future evil consequences. I replied assuredly

7 After some further conversation His Highness said I shall remain in the country for a few days longer and visit the shrine of Mowlah Ali after which I shall return to my palace in the city and write an appropriate letter to the Governor-General

8 His Highness then told me that Rajah Chandulal had represented some circumstances for the good of the state, which I must listen to and relate to the Resident in order that the Resident might communicate them to the Governor-General. Accordingly Chandu Lal mentioned the several arrangements which he had proposed to the Nizam on the day after Meer Allum's death. When Chandu Lal had concluded the Nizam said to me tell the Resident to write all these circumstances fully to the Governor General. All that I require is that the affairs of Government should be properly conducted that my subjects should enjoy peace and security that I should not be troubled with complaints and that my alliance with the British Government should not be disturbed. Provided these objects be attained I do not care who is the Minister. Shortly after this we all retired

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Report by Mowlee Meer Ebn Ali of what passed at the Durbar on the 10th January

I went to the palace and found Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal waiting in the Dewan Khana. I joined them and

after my arrival had been made known to the Nizam, an Aseel came to us, and said that His Highness still felt some doubts, upon the propriety of dispatching the letter to the Governor-General and was desirous to consult me once more upon that subject. I told the Aseel that if His Highness would honour me with a private audience, I hoped to be able to remove all doubts from his mind. When the Aseel communicated this message to the Nizam, His Highness directed us to attend him.

His Highness repeated the same observations which he had made at Umbarpath and said he was afraid of doing any thing that was unusual, particularly as on a former occasion, precisely similar the Governor-General had addressed the first letter to him.

I said every thing that occurred to me likely to remove those doubts from His Highness's mind and assured him that the Governor-General could feel nothing but gratified at His Highness's anxiety to consult him on an arrangement of so much importance to the interests of both states.

His Highness replied that he was fully aware of the propriety of consulting the Governor-General. He was only in doubt as to the proper mode of consulting the Governor-General, whether by a letter to his Lordship or by a message through the Resident.

I replied that the effect of both was the same, but the Resident thought it more suitable to the importance of the occasion that His Highness should himself consult the Governor-General in a letter written expressly for that purpose. It was both a more formal and more complimentary way than the communication of a mere message through the Resident.

This remark appeared to satisfy the Nizam, and he observed that he could place implicit confidence in the rectitude of the Resident's judgment. He added that he would lose no time in preparing the Khurectah and in sending it to the Resident for transmission to Calcutta.

A true copy

CHARLES RUSSELL

Letter No 17—It is a covering note to a copy of his address to the Vice-President in Council, dated 2nd July 1811. In this address he describes the strange conduct of the Nizam and his demand of accounts of money from Raja Chandu Lal, the Peshkar. The details of the court intrigues and lady's influence are also described.

FROM—HENERY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad, the 16th July 1811.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my despatch No 4 to the honourable the vice-president

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT-GENERAL HEWETT
VICE PRESIDENT FORT WILLIAM

HONOURABLE SIR

I am sorry to acquaint your Excellency that the Nizam has within these few days renewed his altercation with Rajah Chandu Lal about his accounts and has behaved with great folly violence and indecency

2 I stated to your Excellency in the 5th paragraph of my address No 2 dated the 21st of May that the Nizam had directed that all matters of business might be referred to him through Moonirul Moolk's niece Juhan Parwar Begum. Since that time the Nizam has generally given his orders to her in the first instance, and she has conveyed them to the person to whom they related. The paper in the Nizam's handwriting requiring Rajah Chandu Lal to refund the amount pretended to be due by him to the Government was sent by the Begum to Moonirul Moolk and delivered by him to the Rajah.

3 A few evenings ago the Nizam asked Juhan Purwar Begum whether Rajah Chandulal had yet paid the money he had directed her to demand of him. The Begum said that the Rajah had neither paid the money nor appeared as if he intended to do so. What said the Nizam he has not refused to pay it to you has he? Yes he has replied the Begum and I have failed in every attempt I have made to get from him. "Then I will get it from him myself" said the Nizam. The Begum said very artfully that she had doubted whether the Nizam would be able to get money that she had tried every means in her power but that the Rajah seemed obstinately resolved not to pay it to any body. "But I will get it though" exclaimed the Nizam "as you shall see I have tried mild measures without success I will now try other. If he will not pay the money by fair means I will take care that he shall pay it by foul"

4 The next morning soon after Chandulal and Munirul Moolk's arrival at the Durbar the Nizam who was as usual in the inner apartments of the palace, sent out Sahir Ali Khan to the Rajah to desire that he would discharge the balance due to him to the Sirkar. The Rajah replied he really did not know what balance his Highness meant. He had rendered his account faithfully and so far from there appearing to be any balance against him the expenses considerably exceeded the receipts. If his Highness thought there was any error in the accounts the Rajah entreated he would be pleased to point it out. The Nizam then sent an absurd statement to the Rajah estimating the Revenues of a great part of the country by the Kaumil instead of the Woosool* inserting many districts which had been granted out in Jagheer taking credit for the Choute collected by the Peshwa's officers and

*The Kaumil is the nominal amount of revenue of each district of village according to a statement prepared when the Deccan belonged to the Kings of Delhi. The woosool is the real amount now collected. The woosool generally varies from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Kaumil. In a very few particular instances it equals it.

for a large portion of the secunnee or minister's fees, and exhibiting a balance of about four crores of Rupees against the Rajah Chandulal in his answer very patiently and respectfully explained the fallacy of this statement, he said he was afraid His Highness might not have accurately understood the different parts of the intricate and voluminous accounts he had submitted to him, and earnestly entreated that he might not be denied the privilege of waiting on His Highness to explain them to him in person. To this the Nizam sent a very foolish though a very characteristic reply "What do you mean" said he "by insinuating that I do not understand your accounts I do understand them perfectly I have examined them with great attention Bunnee Begum too has seen them Sahir Ali Khan has seen them And will you pretend to say that they do not understand accounts? Pay the money immediately or I will take measures to make you pay it" Bunnee Begum is a writer in the service of Juhan Pawai Begum, and Sahir Ali Khan is one of the mirdates of Choubdars. The Rajah again sent word to the Nizam that he was deeply concerned he could not prevail upon His Highness to see him, and that nothing he had urged could produce any effect upon His Highness's mind, he had already said every thing he had to say, and it would be disrespectful in him to persevere in merely repeating it. If the money His Highness required from him was demanded according to any account, he entreated that the account might be submitted to a fair examination. If it was demanded without any reference to accounts, all that he could say was, that the whole of his property even his life belonged to the Nizam, and might be taken from him at any time His Highness chose to require them, he was conscious in his own breast of having performed the part of an honest, faithful servant and was at all times prepared to lose his property as he gained it, and to end his life as he had passed it, in the service of his master. This temperate respectful appeal however was entirely thrown away upon the Nizam. He said "It was money and not fine words he wanted and that it was of no use therefore to amuse him with empty talking. It seemed that Sahir Ali Khan through whom all the messages were conveyed backwards and forwards, was not able to get the money from Chandulal and that he would therefore employ some other servant who would be both able and willing to get it too." The Rajah still continued to remonstrate patiently and temperately but he could get no other answer from the Nizam than merely "Bring the money, bring the money (Paise Lao paise Lao) which the Nizam towards the close of the day repeated over and over again, with the most absurd and stupid obstinacy. At last at about eleven 11 O' clock at night, the Rajah being quite exhausted with anxiety, fatigue, and want of sustenance and finding that no impression was to be made upon the Nizam, sent in word that he had not eaten any thing since the morning and was very much tired, and with His Highness's permission therefore would then go home. The Nizam desired him to go, and return to the palace early the next morning and at the same

time he sent a message to Munirul Moolk which was delivered in the open desiring him to depute officers of his own to assume charge of the country and to appoint Mootusuddies to take charge of the different departments here. To this message Moonirul Moolk made no answer. He had been present with the Rajah at the Durbar all day but had not taken any active share in the discussion that was going on. It was near mid night when Moonirul Moolk and the Rajah left the palace.

5. This took place on the 28th ultimo. On the 29th the Rajah went to the Durbar at an early hour. Moonirul Moolk was there. The Nizam was asleep. When he got up Chandulal desired Sahir Ali Khan would take in a message from him saying he anxiously hoped His Highness would be pleased to admit him to an audience and to listen to the explanation he was desirous of affording on the subject of his accounts. Sahir Ali Khan refused to take in the message because he was not on duty that day and the Choubdar who was on duty said he would not take it in because the subject of it belonged to Tahir Ali Khan. The Nizam has of late been so violent in his behaviour that even his own menial servants are afraid to approach him. Chandulal could not prevail upon any body to take a message in to the Nizam and the Nizam sent no message out to either him or Moonirul Moolk. At last at about one O'clock Moonirul Moolk said that he would send in a Sirnama of his own with a message to his niece Juhan Parwar Begum which he did and received for answer from her that Nizam had said nothing more about the accounts and that she did not dare to speak to him about them until he could tell him that the money had been paid that she imagined unless the Nizam gave any orders to the contrary Moonirul Moolk and Chandulal might go home at the usual hour and the servant was going on with the answer when Moonirul Moolk stopped him saying very well I understand " and then turning to the Rajah said he believed they had better go home which they did immediately.

6. I called on Rajah Chandulal directly he returned from the palace. He repeated to me every thing that had passed between himself and the Nizam the day before, and told he was quite distracted with the difficulties of his situation and really knew not either what to do or what to expect. He imputed all his embarrassments to Moonirul Moolk's intrigues. He said he still thought notwithstanding all that had passed that the Nizam had no personal dislike of him at bottom at least that he liked him as well as he liked any body else about the Durbar and that the only personal interest the Nizam felt on the present occasion was the desire of extorting money from him. In every other respect, he was persuaded the Nizam was a mere tool in the hands of Moonirul Moolk and his associates.

7 I said every thing I could to encourage and animate the Rajah and assured him that he had nothing to apprehend I had already told him he should have my zealous support whenever it became necessary and I was now prepared to give it to him firmly and decidedly The Rajah expressed himself in terms of great gratitude to the British Government for the consideration they had for him, and said he now feared it would become absolutely necessary for him to appeal to me for assistance, but that for his own sake, he wished to defer calling in my active interposition as long as he thought there was any chance, left of his being able to do without it I told the Rajah that I should be guided very much by his opinion regarding the time at which I should interfere between him and the Nizam, and as he evidently wished that I should wait a little longer, it was determined that the Rajah should go to the Durbar again as usual the next day, if the Nizam would listen to him, he was to endeavour to obtain an audience, and bring him to reason, but if the Nizam persisted in his violence and either enforced his orders to Moonirul Moolk, or attempted any other decided step against Chandulal, the Rajah was to remonstrate in a written Aizee and upon that proving ineffectual, as in all probability it would, I was myself to demand an audience of the Nizam, and act as his temper and disposition of mind might appear to make most desirable for diverting him from his present disgraceful line of conduct My visiting Chandulal at such a time would of itself show, that (unless) we interested ourselves in his favour, and might perhaps in some degree deter the Nizam from continuing to act against him, especially if he had been encouraged in any part of his late conduct by a supposition, that we would not interfere for the Rajah's support

8 The next morning which was the 30th and yesterday, Rajah Chandulal went to the Durbar as usual The Nizam was in his female apartment He remained at the palace the whole of the morning both days, but receiving no communication of any kind from the Nizam both he and Moonirul Moolk returned to their own houses at the usual hour

9 I have not thought it necessary to trouble your Excellency with any tedious detail of the objections raised against Rajah Chandulal's accounts The extravagant sum demanded by the Nizam and the method in which he has conducted his enquiry are of themselves amply sufficient to stamp a character of fiction upon the whole proceeding

10 It will be satisfactory to your Excellency to hear that Chandulal in his present difficulties, carries with him not only the esteem of all the Omra of any rank or respectability and of the Begums in the Mahal except Munirul Moolk's niece, but also the cordial good will of the whole community Umzadul Moolk, Shumsul Omrah, Shah Yarool Moolk, Zeeaoool Moolk, and Ihtisamool Moolk, the only persons of any real consequence now left at Hyderabad, are all decidedly attached to the Rajah's cause His office as Peshkar of the Pagah Party connects him particularly with

Umzadul Moolk and Shamsul Omrah In the Mahal Chandni Begum the Nizam's favourite wife has always been his peculiar patronness. The Bukshee Begum's Jagheers have long been entrusted to his brother Govind Buksh and a part of Jyniatoon Nissa Begum's Jagheers are in the charge of one of his servants. They have all expressed themselves to the indignity to which every body is liable, who approaches the Nizam in the paroxysms of his anger. Among the ladies of the Mahal Bukshi Begum has long ceased to take any active part in the concerns of the Government and even the Nizam's own mother and his favourite wife are now afraid to speak to him. Umzadul Moolk has ceased to attend the Durbar for some time past. Itisamul Moolk is very seldom there. Shamsul Omrah and Shah Yarool Moolk are generally on duty at the palace but they rarely see the Nizam and they are at any rate both of them too young to offer any opinion to him. Zeeaoool Mulk from his office of Arazbegce is always in attendance but the Nizam hardly ever sends for him. Now and on the present occasion he has paid him the compliment of not conveying any of his indecent messages to the Rajah through him.

11 The prevalent opinion openly expressed of the Nizam even by the members of his own family is that he is insecure and his present violence is imputed to his not having been bled as usual during the hot weather. He desired his physicians to bleed him some time ago but the operation from some accident was unsuccessful and it has not been attempted since. The whole tenour of the Nizam's recent conduct certainly seems to justify this opinion though I forbear from relating in an official address any of the ludicrous proofs he frequently exhibits of his degrading and unhappy calamity. For some time past he has ceased to trust any body to cook his victuals for him and now eats nothing but what is dressed by his own hands. He never appears in public, and never pays any attention to the concerns of his Government. He generally eats in a sullen melancholy silence in his female apartment and if he does admit any body to his presence it is either his menial servants or his foster brothers or Izzat Yar Khan and Sikandar Yar Jang, the two persons mentioned in the 15th paragraph of my last address to your Excellency. It is the original misfortune of the Nizam's disposition and the source of the errors of his life, that he is uneasy in the society of the only persons who are fit companions for his rank, and who could inspire him with a recollection of what he owes to his people and to himself.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

HENRY RUSSELL,

Resident at Hyderabad.

Hyderabad
July and 1811

Letter No. 18.—The enclosure to this covering note is important. The enclosure is a copy of Russell's address to the Vice-President in Council, dated the 15th July 1811. In this address Russell points out what the revenues of the state were in 1803-04, what Chandulal's relations with the British Resident and what Chandulal had planned to win back the Nizam's confidence.

FROM—H RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Hyderabad, the 27th July 1811

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No 5 to His Excellency the Vice-President

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT-GENERAL HEWETT,
FORT WILLIAM

HONOURABLE SIR,

I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's commands conveyed to me in the Chief Secretary's dispatch of the 21st ultimo

2 It is very gratifying to me to find that the report contained in my address No 2 on the 21st of May had proved satisfactory to your Excellency and that your Excellency had been pleased to approve of the advice I had given to Rajah Chandu Lal. In the event of its becoming necessary for me to exert my influence for the Rajah's protection the delivery of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's letter on the 20th September to His Highness the Nizam, and Moonirul Moolk will still probably be attended with the same beneficial consequences that they were originally intended to produce. I have already thought it right as a measure of precaution to communicate copies of these letters confidentially to Rajah Chandu Lal.

3 For some days after the date of my last address to your Excellency no further discussion took place about the Rajah's accounts. The Rajah went to the Durbar every morning and stayed there until the usual hour but the Nizam neither appeared himself in the public apartments of the palace, nor sent any messages to the Rajah.

4 On the morning of the 7th however Munirul Moolk told Chandulal that Juhan Parwar Begum had sent to him by the Nizam's desire for a written explanation of the statement made out under the Nizam's inspection and communicated to the Rajah on the 28th of last month. The Rajah had taken the precaution to prepare the explanation now called for and immediately sent it to the Nizam. The article explaining the item of Jagheers in the Nizam's statement was the only one on which His Highness made any remark. He asked why so much of his country had been

granted away without his knowledge or authority. The Rajah replied that that was a question out of his power to answer. None of the Jagheer referred to in the statement having been granted by him but having all been conferred during Meer Allum's administration when the accounts of the country were kept by Sooraj Want and Mahapat Ram. The Nizam said they were traitors (Nimak Haram). You must not follow their example. For the future let the charges be reduced to the amount at which they stood in 1213 Faslee 1803-04 by which means a balance of revenue will always be left to me at the end of the year. The charges for 1803-04 were Rupees 1,40,15,337 the receipt for last year were Rupees 1,85,97,340. The Rajah thought it prudent in the present temper of the Nizam's mind to avoid entering into any argument with him about the practicability of keeping the charges stationary when the extent of the country had increased and he therefore sent for answer to the Nizam's message merely that he would turn the subject over in his mind and endeavour to make as large a reduction as he possibly could in the expense of the Government.

5 This is the only occasion on which any thing has lately passed. The tone of the Nizam's messages was rather kind to the Rajah than otherwise, and he has taken two or three opportunities since of showing a favourable disposition towards him. He has desired the Rajah to appoint a servant of his own to superintend a house His Highness is now building within the enclosure of his palace, and a report having gone abroad that the Rajah's enemies intended to incite some ruffians to assassinate him the Nizam sent messages a few days ago to both Shamshul Omrah and Umjadul Moolk desiring that they would give orders to the Pagah troops to be particularly careful of the Rajah's person.

6 I have all along had reason to suspect that one of the means Munir Ool Mulk and his agents made use of to encourage the Nizam in his measures against Chandu Lal was the assuring him that the examination of the Rajah's accounts was a matter belonging exclusively to His Highness's domestic policy and one therefore in which the British Government could have no pretext for interfering and reports were very industriously circulated through the city that the Rajah had earnestly and repeatedly appealed to me for assistance but that I had peremptorily refused to give it to him. The scene of one of these appeals was laid at Munirul Moolk's house, where it was said, that on the day I visited him the Rajah had thrown himself at my feet in Munirul Moolk's presence and implored my assistance as the only possible means of intruding him from his difficulties and that I had told the Rajah in reply "I was exceedingly sorry for the embarrassment he was involved into but that I had no authority to interfere in any of the internal arrangements of the Nizam's Government and that in the present instance, His Highness's pleasure must take its course."

7 It is probable therefore that the Nizam understood my sudden visit to Chandulal on the 29th ultimo in the sense in which I meant he should understand it and that he has changed his conduct from discovering that the Rajah will have my support, if he should stand in need of it. I have since paid another visit to the Rajah, which seems to have produced the best effects in encouraging the Rajah himself and repressing the hopes and activity of his enemies.

8 The Rajah is now endeavouring to obtain an audience of the Nizam at which he means to try to remove any doubts His Highness may still pretend to entertain of the correctness of his accounts and to conciliate him by assurances of a faithful attachment to his person and Government and by professing the most sincere devotion to the interests of his service. The Rajah's manners are very mild and insinuating and he is so well acquainted with the peculiarities of the Nizam's temper, that if he can but get personal access to him, I am in great hopes he will succeed in effecting a reconciliation.

9 The Rajah has abandoned the design of purchasing the Nizam's favour by the offer of a large sum of money and he has now devised a plan, which does not seem to be liable to the same objections for making a permanent increase to the monthly sum paid to the Nizam for the support of his household. The good effects of this measure will be lasting instead of temporary, and will give the Rajah a permanent hold upon the Nizam's mind by authorizing the declaration that it will not be without the greatest difficulty the Rajah will be able to make the increase the projects, and that it will be absolutely impracticable for him either to accomplish or continue it, without His Highness's unlimited confidence and support.

10 The Rajah also intends to endeavour to make some reduction in the charges of the Government a measure which if it is cautiously planned and steadily maintained, will certainly be attended with the most important and beneficial consequences. I fear however that this design is rather specious than practicable.

11 Rajah Chandu Lal attaches great importance to the object of conciliating the Nizam by his own efforts alone. It being generally known that he will have our support if he should be driven to require it will of itself give him considerable weight. It may possibly deter the Nizam from taking any decided steps against him, and will at least make Munirul Moolk cautious in the prosecution of his intrigues. But the active exertions of our influence in his favour would confirm his enemies in one of the chief advantages they have over him in their insinuations to the Nizam, it would at

at the same time he sent message to me mentioning what had occurred. One of the Julian Parwar Begums Asseels then went to the Rajah to ask what was the reason of my wanting to see the Nizam. The Rajah replied that I had received a Shookka for His Highness from the king and I wished to present to him. I know nothing about the king said the Nizam. Who is he? What has he got to write to me about? Who brought his Shookka here? How did it come? Did it fly? The Rajah said that the Shookka he believed was in answer to an Arzdusht which His Highness had addressed to the king, a considerable time ago thanking him for the titles His Majesty had been pleased to confer upon him and that it had been forwarded to me by the Resident at Delhi. The Nizam said he knew nothing at all about the matter and desired the Rajah to refer to Meer Allum. The Rajah reminded His Highness very respectfully that Meer Allum had been dead three years but that the former Shookka from the king and the copies of His Highness's Arzdushts were in the Moonshy's Office and could be produced immediately if His Highness wished to see them. The Nizam saw that although Meer Allum himself was dead many of the members of his family were living to whom the Shookka might be delivered much more properly than to him. But he desired that the papers mentioned by the Rajah might be sent to him.

6. The next morning the Rajah took those papers to the palace, and sent them in to the Nizam who pretended to forget all that had passed the day before and asked what the papers were about and why he was troubled with them. The Rajah told the Nizam, that the papers had been sent to him by his own express desire, and as soon as he had read them requested His Highness would fix a day for granting me an audience. The Nizam was astonished at the Rajah's requiring him to receive me after giving him a formal release, under his seal and signature, declaring that no transactions remained unsettled (alluding probably to the circumstance mentioned on the 3rd paragraph of Lt-Col Russell's address to the Governor-General dated the 14th June 1810). The Rajah said he was not aware that any transaction did remain unsettled that I merely wished to pay a visit to His Highness and that nothing surely could be more easy than for His Highness to receive me and entertain me in the usual manner for half an hour. The Nizam said it might perhaps appear very easy to the Rajah but it was by no means so to him it weighed upon him like a stone. Ghulam Syed Khan and Meer Abdul Kasim never troubled him in this way they did every thing that was to be done at their own houses and left him as he wished to be left, entirely to himself. The Rajah replied that all the duties which belonged to the Minister he discharged, as his predecessors had done, but that there were certain acts which could be performed by His Highness alone and that the giving audience to the Resident was one of them. "I have no objection" said the Nizam, to give audience to the Resident, when there is any real necessity for it but it is quite impossible that he can have any

thing to say to me now how should he? He has got no money of mine, and I am sure I have got none of his" The Rajah answered that all this was very true, but that I had applied for an audience, and it must be granted to me, that in a former instance His Highness had declared, that he would unconditionally receive the Resident upon all occasions, and that His Highness's objecting to do so now would inevitably lead to very serious and painful discussions. I know nothing said the Nizam "about the declaration you speak of, or about the Resident's right to have an audience, every thing that was said or done before, was by Meer Allum, why cannot you do as he did? You are the Minister, and conduct all the business, you write my letters, and seal them for me, you issue orders, manage the country, and collect the Revenues, why therefore cannot you receive the Resident too? And have me entirely to myself. I am a poor man (Gaib Admee) and live quite secluded. I keep a few female servants, and have few pots and pans to cook my victuals. I do not trouble my head about any other man's business and do not wish any other man to trouble his head about mine.

7 The whole of this absurd discussion was conducted by the Nizam with the most indecent violence, and the emotions which prevailed in the Durbar, where the Nizam's messages were delivered aloud to the Rajah, seemed to be alternately of pity, laughter and disgust. For several days afterwards the Nizam shut himself up entirely in his own apartment and he occasionally betrayed such violence of passion, that the servants of the palace were afraid to approach him. During the last few months indeed, he has shown a ferocity of disposition, which, amidst all his extravagancies never appeared in him before. He lately had one of his female servants tied by the hands and feet to four wooden pegs driven into the ground, for no greater offence than a mistake in the method of boiling some eggs, and after keeping her in that situation for several days, he had her beaten until she actually expired in his presence. About a fortnight ago he had another of his female servants so unhumanly beaten for some equally trifling offence, that she died in a few hours, and a day now hardly passes without his exercising some cruelty towards his women which makes his character as odious, as it is contemptible. The impression which this conduct has occasioned may easily be imagined. Those persons who are able to get away from the Nizam, are naturally eager to do so, and nothing I am told can exceed the misery of those whose situations unavoidably expose them to the paroxysms of his rage. Both the Bukshi Begum and the Jyniatoo Nissa Begum left the palace in disgust about six weeks ago and are now living at a village of Jyniatoo Nissa Begum's about six miles from the city. They had for some time been upon bad terms with the Nizam in consequence of the violence and indecency of his conduct.

8 At length after waiting nearly a week Rajah Chandu Lal sent an Arzee to the Nizam, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation. I hope your Excellency will think the

style of this Arzee sufficiently respectful. It was originally expressed with such timidity and abjectness as seem in to me to be calculated to encourage the Nizam in his opposition and I had some difficulty in prevailing on the Rajah to omit the phrase "I approach your Highness with fear and trembling (hurzar o tursan)". The want of personal firmness is a great defect of Chandu Lal's public character. Both Azimul Omrah and Meer Allum were able by their own efforts to promote in some degree the success of the measures which we adopted for their support. The Nizam feared though he hated them but Chandu Lal can give no assistance. We have to support him against his own fears as well as against the opposition of the Nizam and the means of attaining our object are therefore lessened as the difficulty of it is increased.

9 When the Rajah's Arzee was delivered to the Nizam he flew into a violent passion and asked the Asceel who brought it, how she dared give such a paper to him. He sent a message to the Rajah saying that he had hoped there had been an end of the subject that it was not possible I should have any thing to say to him that as to the Firman he had already desired it might be delivered to Meer Allum's family who must know more about it then he did and that if I had any other business I might go to Meer Allum or Chandu Lal. The Rajah replied that the Resident called on His Highness as the representatives of the Government which was His Highness's best friend and that when he had called formerly on Meer Allum or now upon the Rajah himself it was a distinction they owed exclusively to the offices which His Highness had done them the honour to confide to them that the apprehensions His Highness appeared to entertain were unfounded and unjust and that His Highness ought not to consider those men as his friends who had taken pains to inspire him with them. that all ordinary business was conducted by the Resident with the Minister but that in those cases where the Resident found that the Minister's Representations were not attended to by His Highness, of course he would be obliged to address himself directly to His Highness in person.

10 The tone of this message so much more spirited than that which is generally adopted by the Rajah seemed to produce some good effect upon the Nizam. He said very well if that is the case, I have no objection to see Mr Russell. I will receive him at a time. But what is this paper which he has brought from the King. What have I to do with it? If it belongs to anybody surely it is to him who wrote the letter to which it is said to be answer it was Meer Allum and not I who wrote that letter and it is to him therefore, and not to me that it ought to have been sent. If he is dead let it be delivered to his family.

11 The Shookka from the king became a matter of mere form it would have——nothing originally whether I delivered it to the Nizam or to his Minister but as I had formally announced

my intention of delivering it to the Nizam in person, and as I had indeed made it the plea on which I applied for an audience it appeared to me that it would be improper to give any sort of countenance to the Nizam's discreditable suspicions, or to submit to any thing like a condition of his granting me an audience, by consenting to suppress the Shookka or receiving in any respect from the ground I had originally taken Rajah Chandu Lal tried to divert me from this resolution and urged me very strongly to concede the point of delivering the Shookka to the Nizam. But when he found that I was not to be moved, he prepared another Arzee which he endeavoured to get delivered to the Nizam. All the servants of the palace however said, that after what had passed they did not dare to approach the Nizam upon the subject, and they absolutely refused to take charge of the Rajah's Arzee. It then became absolutely necessary for me to apply directly to the Nizam, myself and I therefore addressed a letter to His Highness of which I have honour to enclose a copy and translation

12 The Nizam expressed a good deal of anger and surprize, when my letter was delivered to him, and asked the Rajah, why he had not settled the business without making it necessary for me to write to His Highness. The Rajah said, that he had done every thing in his power and that two days before he had addressed an Arzee to His Highness telling him so, but could not get it delivered to His Highness. The Nizam sent for this Arzee and after reading it asked the Rajah if the object of my visit related to him, if it did, in what way and if it did not, why he interposed so warmly about it. And he then ran into very much the same sort foolish, unmeaning altercation he had gone into before. He said I know nothing at all about the Farman. The Aizdasht to the king was written when Meer Allum was Minister, and Captain Sydenham Resident. One of them is dead, and the other is gone away, is not all their business therefore dead and gone with them. If Mr Russell comes to the Durbar what will he say to me, and what answer shall I give him? But at last, the Rajah with a great deal of difficulty prevailed upon the Nizam to consent to his addressing a Note to me, which I received at about 3 O'clock in the morning.

13 As the Nizam chose to disavow the real cause of the delay and to abstain from imposing any condition upon my having an audience, I determined to accept the explanation contained in the Rajah's note and I accordingly sent an answer to it of the terms of which I hope your Excellency will be pleased to approve. In the course of the afternoon I received a letter from the Nizam himself, appointing the next morning to receive me.

14 Mooneerool Moolk was present at all these discussions at the Durbar but he took no part in them whatever.

15 I am almost ashamed to have taken up so much of your Excellency's time and to have so much violated the gravity of official correspondence, by detailing all the ludicrous absurdities

style of this Arzee sufficiently respectful. It was originally expressed with such timidity and abjectness as seem in to me to be calculated to encourage the Nizam in his opposition and I had some difficulty in prevailing on the Rajah to omit the phrase 'I approach your Highness with fear and trembling (kurzar o kursan)'. The want of personal firmness is a great defect of Chandu Lal's public character. Both Azimul Omrah and Meer Allum were able by their own efforts to promote in some degree the success of the measures which we adopted for their support. The Nizam feared though he hated them but Chandu Lal can give no assistance. We have to support him against his own fears as well as against the opposition of the Nizam and the means of attaining our object are therefore lessened as the difficulty of it is increased.

9. When the Rajah's Arzee was delivered to the Nizam he flew into a violent passion and asked the Asel who brought it how she dared give such a paper to him. He sent a message to the Rajah saying that he had hoped there had been an end of the subject that it was not possible I should have any thing to say to him that as to the Firman he had already desired it might be delivered to Meer Allum's family who must know more about it then he did and that if I had any other business I might go to Meer Allum or Chandu Lal. The Rajah replied that the Resident called on His Highness as the representatives of the Government which was His Highness's best friend and that when he had called formerly on Meer Allum or now upon the Rajah himself it was a distinction they owed exclusively to the offices which His Highness had done them the honour to confide to them that the apprehensions His Highness appeared to entertain were unfounded and unjust and that His Highness ought not to consider those men as his friends who had taken pains to inspire him with them that all ordinary business was conducted by the Resident with the Minister but that in those cases where the Resident found that the Minister's Representations were not attended to by His Highness of course he would be obliged to address himself directly to His Highness in person.

10. The tone of this message so much more spirited than that which is generally adopted by the Rajah seemed to produce some good effect upon the Nizam. He said very well if that is the case, I have no objection to see Mr Russell. I will receive him at a time. But what is this paper which he has brought from the king. What have I to do with it? If it belongs to anybody surely it is to him who wrote the letter to which it is said to be answer it was Meer Allum and not I who wrote that letter and it is to him therefore, and not to me that it ought to have been sent. If he is dead let it be delivered to his family.

11. The Shookka from the king became a matter of mere form it would have——nothing originally whether I delivered it to the Nizam or to his Minister but as I had formally announced

my intention of delivering it to the Nizam in person, and as I had indeed made it the plea on which I applied for an audience it appeared to me that it would be improper to give any sort of countenance to the Nizam's discreditable suspicions, or to submit to any thing like a condition of his granting me an audience, by consenting to suppress the Shookka or receiving in any respect from the ground I had originally taken Rajah Chandu Lal tried to divert me from this resolution and urged me very strongly to concede the point of delivering the Shookka to the Nizam. But when he found that I was not to be moved, he prepared another Arzee which he endeavoured to get delivered to the Nizam. All the servants of the palace however said, that after what had passed they did not dare to approach the Nizam upon the subject, and they absolutely refused to take charge of the Rajah's Arzee. It then became absolutely necessary for me to apply directly to the Nizam, myself and I therefore addressed a letter to His Highness of which I have honour to enclose a copy and translation

12 The Nizam expressed a good deal of anger and surprize, when my letter was delivered to him, and asked the Rajah, why he had not settled the business without making it necessary for me to write to His Highness. The Rajah said, that he had done every thing in his power and that two days before he had addressed an Arzee to His Highness telling him so, but could not get it delivered to His Highness. The Nizam sent for this Arzee and after reading it asked the Rajah if the object of my visit related to him, if it did, in what way and if it did not, why he interposed so warmly about it. And he then ran into very much the same sort foolish, unmeaning altercation he had gone into before. He said I know nothing at all about the Farman. The Aizdasht to the king was written when Meer Allum was Minister, and Captain Sydenham Resident. One of them is dead, and the other is gone away, is not all their business therefore dead and gone with them. If Mr Russell comes to the Durbar what will he say to me, and what answer shall I give him? But at last, the Rajah with a great deal of difficulty prevailed upon the Nizam to consent to his addressing a Note to me, which I received at about 3 O'clock in the morning.

13 As the Nizam chose to disavow the real cause of the delay and to abstain from imposing any condition upon my having an audience, I determined to accept the explanation contained in the Rajah's note and I accordingly sent an answer to it, of the terms of which I hope your Excellency will be pleased to approve. In the course of the afternoon I received a letter from the Nizam himself, appointing the next morning to receive me.

14 Mooneerool Moolk was present at all these discussions at the Durbar but he took no part in them whatever.

15 I am almost ashamed to have taken up so much of your Excellency's time and to have so much violated the gravity of official correspondence, by detailing all the ludicrous absurdities

of the Nizam's language but I do not know in what other manner an accurate notion of it can be given it may be repeated but it cannot be described I am anxious also to give your Excellency the most ample means of judging what must be the condition of a Government where the prince and his Ministers are entirely occupied for whole days together with such frivolous unmeaning altercation

16 A few hours after the Nizam's letter reached me, I received from the Rajah a paper which he said the Nizam had just sent to him with a requisition that he would sign it He told me that he should do every thing he could to evade the Nizam's desire, and that at all events he would endeavour to satisfy his mind without connecting himself in such a way as to occasion any embarrassment hereafter

17 I went to the palace on the morning of the 7th and was received by Munirool Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal in the public hall of audience. They both of them mentioned the paper which the Rajah had sent to me the evening before and the Rajah told me that he had been able to avoid giving any written declaration to the Nizam We were soon sent for by His Highness whom I found in an inner apartment standing to receive me. He embraced me without any hesitation and seated me as usual by the side of his Musnud The expression on of his countenance was uncommonly melancholy and though it was not five months since I had seen him I observed that a very remarkable change for the worse had taken place in his appearance He hardly spoke at all but his tone in the few words he did say was more that of depression than of anger He seemed to be rather out of spirits than out of humour As soon as the Nizam had replied to the enquiries I made after his health I told him that I had received from the Resident at Delhi a Shookla in answer to an Arzdasht His Highness had addressed to the king some time ago, and I then rose, and presented it to him. The Nizam received it from my hand and without saying a word gave it unopened to Munirool Moolk He then immediately asked me if Chandu Lal had shown me the paper he had sent the night before and without waiting for my answer desired Munirul Moolk to read it to me. I have the honour to enclose copy and translation of the paper The meaning of the last passage is not quite clear and original. It may mean addressed to the Rajah Munirul Moolk has already declared a——— I now called upon you to declare" or it may contain an allusion of the clandestine communication which Munirool Moolk still persists in carrying on with the Nizam It would hardly perhaps have occurred to me to remark the ambiguity of this passage if I had not observed that Munirool Moolk when he read it to me before the Nizam put it in the form of a question addressed to me, and said "has Munirul Moolk explained this particularly to you. I told the Nizam that I was

not aware of any transaction which remained unsettled, that I had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which all points of business were conducted by Chandu Lal and that as long as the Rajah continued to enjoy His Highness's confidence and regard, there could be no doubt that every thing would be conducted to the entire satisfaction both of His Highness and of the British Government. The Nizam repeated that all points of business which had occurred during Meer Allum's administration had been adjusted by him, and that the present ministers were responsible for all transactions which had occurred since that time.

18 The anxiety which the Nizam has so frequently expressed, both now and before that all former transactions should be admitted to have been adjusted, proceeds I suspect from an apprehension which he seems to have constantly entertained, lest any discoveries should be made, or any notice taken of the treacherous correspondence which he has undoubtedly at different times maintained with Mahipat Ram, and other persons. From what passed about the Shookka it was evident that the Nizam suspected it related to some offensive measure, which was meditated against him probably to a demand for money or territory. He

himself very much upon his accurate knowledge of the treaties between his Government and the Company, and it is not at all unlike his character to connect the supposed subject of the present Firman with that of the firman mentioned in the first article of the treaty of 1768, with his father as containing a free gift of the Northern Circar from the king to the Company. But whatever the real source of the Nizam's suspicions may have been, I thought the best way was to take no notice of them, and to leave their fallacy to become apparent of itself.

19 I tried repeatedly whilst I stayed with the Nizam to engage him in different subjects of conversation. I told him of the progress of the expedition, and spoke of the partial failure of the rains. I talked of a new house he is building on the plan of the Residency House, and asked him whether he intended visiting a favourite garden near the city which he frequently goes to at this season of the year, but I found that every attempt was equally ineffectual. He answered me civilly and shortly, and seemed to be every moment in dread of my professing some offensive demand to him. After staying with him about twenty minutes I therefore requested his permission to retire. He dismissed me politely as he had received me, but with the same strong character of depression in his countenance and manner.

20 It would be useless to think of assigning reasons for a conduct, every part of which bears such features of insanity. But there can be little doubt, that much of the Nizam's resistance on this occasion, and many of the disgraceful suspicions he has betrayed, are to be imputed to the malicious insinuations of

Munirool Moolk whose constant object seems to be to excite jealousy and dissension between the Nizam and the Resident and to prevail upon the Nizam to oppose every measure which is either suggested or conducted by Chandu Lal. It has long been evident that Munirool Moolk is resolved to neglect no means of artifice or intrigue to subvert the present system of administration and to supplant Chandu Lal in his authority. But I have lately got possession of some curious papers which place his real views and designs entirely beyond doubt and prove so clearly the active part he took in the late discussion about Chandu Lal's account that much as I have already trespassed upon your Excellency's time in this dispatch I think it necessary to submit them to your notice.

21 Your Excellency is probably aware that Munirul Moolk believes in the doctrine of astrology though without personally observing the miserable begotry and purple weakness of his character it is difficult to credit the extent to which he relies upon it and makes it the rule of all his actions. He maintains an establishment of astrologers at his house, and not only consults them upon all transactions of business but actually does not eat or drink or perform the most common duties of life without first ascertaining from them that the moment is auspicious. On ordinary occasions the answers to his questions are given verbally but whenever they are such as to require an intricate calculation he is obliged to propose them in writing. The following are translations of three papers of this kind which he gave to one of his most confidential astrologers. They do not bear any dates but I have put them in the order in which they appear to me from their contents to have been written. The first was probably written in May and the other two in June.

1 Mr Russell is ill you must ascertain whether he will recover or die and write me word. Will Mohammed Khan perform the service I have engaged with him for or not? I am very often unwell you must ascertain whether this is the effect of witchcraft, or in consequence of any defect in my constitution.

2 The question of Ally Zumaun. In how many days shall I have an audience of the Nizam. At the audience will the Nizam be in good humour with Ally Zuman or not? When will Chandu Lal be dismissed from his office and when will he die? Will the office of Peshkar remain with him or not? In what time will it leave him? And will it leave him under circumstances of difficulty or otherwise?

3. How long will Mr Russell remain Resident and when will Chandu Lal lose the office of Peshkar? Will the Nizam take the money from Chandu Lal or not and will Chandu Lal pay it or not? Is Mr Russell in his heart friend to Chandu Lal or not? Will there be any dissension between Chandulal and the Nizam or not? Does the Nizam think me his friend or not? When will Chandu

Lal pay the money? When will he die? Will Mr Russell send for Yawar Ali from Poona or not? Will Ebn Ali return here or not? Ascertain all this by a careful calculation, and in a day or two bring me an answer to each question, according to the result. Ascertain the period and the day, and the date and the month, and the year, in how many days, and how many months, it is all to happen. You must not consult my wishes, but tell me the real result of your calculations whatever it may be, in order that I may be set entirely at ease."

22 There is some difficulty in recognising Munirul Moolk's hand with certainty from his following a practice by no means uncommon at Hyderabad of cultivating different modes of writing, and using sometimes one, and some times another. But it appears to me that the third paper is in his hand disguised and that the second is nearly in his natural hand. The first I am inclined to suspect is in his hand too, though it is so much disguised as to make the resemblance very faint. The way in which my name is used by Munirul Moolk, confirms the fact I formerly had occasion to mention, that the measures pursued by the Resident are considered here to proceed entirely from his own personal inclination, and not from the orders of Government. When Munirul Moolk first found Chandu Lal was supported by Captain Sydenham, he employed a Fakeer to effect his removal by witchcraft. He thought that the principal would cease with the agent. The allusion to Mohammed Khan I do not understand but it probably relates to some event which was to be brought about by witchcraft. Ally Zaman is Munirul Moolk's original which is the one always adopted in consulting the astrologer. Yawur Ali is a person who called on Mr Elphinstone at Poona about three months ago, and told him that he had been sent by Munirul Moolk to write news of his warfare. When I mentioned this to Munirul Moolk he disavowed Yawur Ali with great earnestness and desired, that if I had the least doubt upon the subject, I would send for him to Hyderabad. From the circumstances of both Captain Sydenham and I having had charge of the Residency at Poona immediately before our appointment to Hyderabad, Munirul Moolk has a superstitious notion that the next Resident will come from Poona too. Ebn Ali having been Captain Sydenham's Moonshy, is considered by Munirul Moolk to be a friend of Chandu Lal's.

23 While the altercation about Chandu Lal's accounts was going on, I heard from different quarters that Munirul Moolk frequently sent notes to the Nizam sometimes through his niece the Juhan Parwar Begum and sometimes through Izzat Yar Khan, the person mentioned in the 15th paragraph of my address to your Excellency of the 20th of June. I thought it of great importance to get possession of some of these notes and at length succeeded in procuring a sight of two of them, through one of the persons employed in the immediate custody of the Nizam's papers. I was

allowed to keep them only for a short time as it was necessary that they should be immediately restored to the place they had been taken from. The following are translations of them —

- 1 For the present let an arrangement for the future be made. Your Highness will then see how much money is collected. If your Highness directs I will submit the plan of an arrangement to your Highness. If your Highness should approve of it anything that your Highness please can be done.
- 2 He has falsified the account of the Soobah of Berar which he has submitted to your Highness. He does not intend to pay the money of the Soobah. If your Highness uses any violence———get support from Mr Russell. He———away with the money of the Sirkar clandestinely. For the present let an arrangement for the future be made. If your Highness entrusts me with your orders your Highness will see how much money will be collected. What ever your Highness may approve of may be done."

24. These Arzees being addressed to the Nizam are written in a fairer and rounder hand than Munirul Moolk uses on common occasions but I have hardly any doubt of the hand writing being his. The recommendation in both these papers that an arrangement for the future should be made corresponds with the Nizam's desire mentioned in the 4th paragraph of my address to your Excellency dated the 15th of July. That for the future the charges should be reduced to the amount at which they stood in 1213. Finally though the temptation held out to the Nizam at the close of the second paper to entrust Munirul Moolk with his orders seems to place the date of that paper before the message from the Nizam to Munirul Moolk described in the 4th paragraph of my proceeding address of the 2nd of July desiring him to depute officers of his own to assume charge of the country and to appoint Mootusuddies to take charge of the different departments here.

25. I have the honour to enclose copies of these two Arzees as well as of the three Notes addressed to the astrologer.

26. In many cases perhaps where the probable exertion of Munirul Moolk's intrigues can be foreseen it may be practicable to prevent them by working upon his fears. But when once the Nizam has been led by him into suspicion or instigated to resistance, the mischief is beyond the reach of any measures directed towards Munirul Moolk. It can no longer be corrected by him. The influence which he possesses over the Nizam's mind is applicable to bad purposes alone. He can lead the Nizam out of the straight path, but he cannot lead him back to it. He can betray him with———but he cannot encourage him to good. As long as his insinuations are directed either against us, or against the

Minister who is attached to our interests the Nizam will always listen to him with avidity, but if he ever attempts to inspire him with a manly liberal sentiment or recommends him to do a wise or honorable action his influence is at an end, the Nizam will immediately consider him as his enemy, and feel the same hatred, that he does of every man of chaictter in his Government

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H RUSSELL,

Resident at Hyderabad

Hyderabad

The 9th September 1811

No 2

Translation of a note from Henry Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandu Lal, dated 23rd August 1811

Having lately received from the Resident at Delhi, a Shookka from the king, in answer to an Arzadasht what was formerly addressed to His Majesty by His Highness the Nizam, and a considerable time having elapsed, since I had the honour of waiting on His Highness, I beg that you will request His Highness will be pleased to fix a day for granting me an audience, in order that I may deliver the Shookka from the King, and gratify my own anxious wish to pay my respects personally to His Highness

A true translation

C RUSSELL,

First Assistant.

No 3

Translation of an Arzee from Rajah Chandu Lal to His Highness the Nizam written the 1st of September 1811

Mr Russell's servants have been coming to me for the last five or six days for an answer to his application for an audience of your Highness Mr Russell constantly reminds me of the written declaration formerly given by your Highness, that an audience should unconditionally be granted to the Resident whenever he should apply for one and imputed the present delay to my negligence communicating his application to your Highness I am therefore induced by my attachment to your Highness to take the liberty of recommending that Mr Russel's application should be complied with, that your Highness should give orders for him receiving an audience, and that according to his former representation, your Highness should do him the honour to observe the customary form of embracing him Your Highness

by the grace of God is the Sovereign. Nothing is concealed from your Highness which anybody need take the liberty of explaining

A true translation

C. RUSSELL

1st Assistant

No 4

Translation of a letter from H Russell Esqr Resident at Hyderabad to His Highness the Nizam dated 4th September 1911

Ten days ago I wrote to Rajah Chandu Lal that (recapitulate the Resident's note to the Rajah of the 23rd August) but although I have sent repeated messages to him I have not yet received any satisfactory answer. I therefore take the liberty of addressing your Highness directly to request that your Highness will be pleased out of your known kindness and in consideration of the friendship between the two Governments to appoint a day for granting me the honour of an audience.

A true translation

C. RUSSELL,

1st Assistant.

No 4

Translation of an Ar-ree addressed by Rajah Chandulal to His Highness the Nizam dated the 2nd September 1811

I have done everything I can to prevail upon Mr Russell to deliver the Firman to Meer Allum's family in the first instance. I have assured him that after that your Highness will receive him properly and embrace him. Mr Russell says in answer that his wish is to wait upon your Highness in person and that it never had been customary for papers of the description of a Firman to be delivered to anybody but your Highness. That the Firman being from the King the greater appearance of respect it is received with the more it would do to your Highness's credit, and that its being delivered by the Resident in person makes it a mark of still higher honour to your Highness. That circumstances of this kind tend also to increase the friendship between the two Governments and that as your Highness is thoroughly acquainted with the forms observed on such occasions he trusts your Highness will be pleased to consent to do what has always been customary. I therefore take the liberty of intreating your Highness to comply with the request about which Mr Russell seems to be so anxious and to gratify his wish by granting him an audience. Mr Russell is a sincere well-wisher of your Highness's person and it is entirely from my attachment to your Highness that I have ventured to repeat my representation on this subject to Your Highness.

A true translation.

C. RUSSELL,

First Assistant.

Translation of a note from Rajah Chandulal to Henry Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 5th September 1811

Your letter has been received by His Highness, and by the grace of God your application for an audience to deliver the Firman from the King has been consented to. The reason of the delay in your receiving an answer was, that His Highness was desirous of settling some former discussion with his Ministers. By the blessing of God, that discussion has now been satisfactorily settled, and His Highness has directed me to give you this explanation in order that no complaint or remonstrance may be made in consequence of the delay, and that an audience may be granted to you satisfactorily.

As soon as I receive your answer to this note, a letter will be written to you by His Highness in answer to your letter and fixing a day for your having an audience.

A true translation

C RUSSELL,
First Assistant

Translation of a note from H Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandulal, dated the 6th September 1811

I have had the honour to receive your note, informing me that my letter had been received by His Highness and that my application for an audience to deliver the Firman from the King had been consented to, and explaining the reason of the delay in my receiving an answer and have understood its contents.

As the reason of the delay was that His Highness was desirous of settling some former discussion with his Ministers which has now by the blessing of God been satisfactorily settled, it is not of much consequence. I now request that you will be so good as to apply to His Highness for an answer to my letter appointing a day for my receiving an audience.

A true translation

C RUSSELL,
First Assistant

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Nizam to Henry Russell Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 6th September 1811

I have received your letter informing me of the arrival of a Firman from the King, and expressing your anxiety to have the honour of an audience of me. You will come to the Durbar on the morning as usual tomorrow which is Saturday.

What more need be written

A true translation

C RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Translation of a paper sent by His Highness the Nizam to Rajah Chandulal dated the 6th September 1811

At the time of the death of Meer Abdul Karim the Minister of the Sirkar settled all the affairs of Government and for any other transaction relating to the Sirkar which may since then have occurred those Ministers are responsible. Thus they admit They are ready to provide for everything They will give an answer on the subject of the Firman There is nothing remaining which can be a ground of altercation Munirul Mulk has declared this particularly

A true translation

C. RUSSELL.

First Assistant.

Letter No 20—The enclosure to this covering note is very important. It is a copy of Russell's address to the Vice President in Council dated the 31st October 1811. In this address Russell describes the continuance of Nizam's suspicions against Chandulal fomented by Munirul Mulk's and his refusal to do public business. Munirul Mulk's conspiracy to get rid of Chandulal by stirring trouble against him among the people and the army is also mentioned. The endeavour of Munirul Mulk to control all the transactions of money and to have Russell Changed has been explained.

FROM—H RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

TO—RICHARD JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad the 7th November 1811

I have the honour to send you a copy of my address No 7 dated the 31st ultimo to His Excellency the Vice President

[NOTE.—It is rather strange that the last five enclosures bear dates from 9th December 1811 to 18th January 1812. An enclosure ought to bear a date prior to that of the covering letter]

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL
HEWITT VICE-PRESIDENT FORT WILLIAM.

HONOURABLE SIR

Your Excellency already knows that the Nizam at the intercession of Lieutenant Charles Russell consented to the return of Noorool Omrah and Rao Rumbha, and that Noorul Omrah accompanied me from the Frontier to Hyderabad. There was some delay in Rao Rambha's returning on a point of ceremony but he has now arrived and has visited the Nizam and the Ministers. None of Rao Rambha's Jagheers had been taken from him, but Noorul Omrah's including the grants for the payment of his troops had been reduced from 1631,000 to 360,000 Rupees a year. The resources of the Government were not in a state to admit of his party of troops being restored to its former strength but Rajah Chandu Lal has made up his Jagheers to 5,40,000 Rupees a year

out of which he has to maintain only a Battalion of Infantry, and 500 Horse. The recall of these Omrahs from banishment, and their restoration to rank and affluence are known to have been entirely brought about by us, and have given us great popularity among that class of persons whose interests are most affected by our alliance with the Nizam, and towards whom it is most rarely in our power to perform any acts of grace or benefit.

2 The Nizam has been very unwell lately and has only just recovered. When he was first taken ill he consulted the physicians who generally attended him but on reading their prescriptions, he flew into passion, and said, they were a parcel of quacks and did not know so much of their profession as he did himself. He therefore wrote his own prescription and proposed his own medicines, and would not allow anybody to attend him, or even to see him, except a few of his own female servants. Before the end of the Ramzan he was sufficiently recovered to go out, and he went to pass a few days at the house he lived in, during his father's lifetime. But he did not hold a public Durbar on the day which it has hitherto been the invariable practice for the prince to do, to receive the Nuzzars and congratulations of his Omrahs and principal servants. Moonirul Moolk and Rajah Chandu Lal, after waiting the greater part of the day, were just leaving the palace, when the Nizam sent for them, and received their Nuzzars, and those of a few other persons. He was standing, and dismissed them all immediately without speaking to any body.

3 The Nizam's obstinate retirement from public business of every kind is inconvenient in those cases which require his personal sanction though upon the whole it rather strengthens Chandu Lal's authority than otherwise. It compels everybody to look up to him alone for the adjustment of any business they have to transact, and constitutes him in fact, though not in name the sole, and for ordinary purposes the absolute Minister of the Government. But the entire stop that has been put to every appearance of show or state, and the Nizam's sullen seclusion of himself from all established forms and ceremonies, is very offensive to the whole body of the Omrahs, and to all those persons who have any feeling of either pride or interest, in the parade and splendour of the Court. Except when he has given audience to the Resident, he has hardly held a single public Durbar since Meer Allum's death, and he has now directed that no report shall be made to him of the persons who are in daily attendance at the palace, unless he himself calls for it. This foolish conduct has done the Nizam a great deal of injury among his own subjects, and has made him more unpopular even among the lowest classes of them than ever he was before.

4 A few days ago when Moonirul Moolk and Chandu Lal were leaving the Durbar they were told that a large mob had collected on the streets near the palace, and were very violent and dangerous, about the high price of grain. They both of them attempted to proceed, and Noorul Omrah was allowed to pass with hardly any

interruption but so an attack was made upon Chandu Lal that he was obliged to send for a considerable party of troops to clear the streets and escort him to his own house. He was detained in the Court of the palace almost the whole of the day and several of his attendants were severely hurt. A great part of the mob that were collected and especially the persons who took the lead in the attack upon Chandu Lal were observed to be of a different description from the common public of the city and a report has been prevalent that they were employed by Munirul Moolk. Their allowing him to pass and even with his weakness and effeminacy his attempting to do so has of itself a very suspicious appearance and I know from unquestionable authority that when word was brought to him of the Rajah's having got safely home he said "Well he has escaped this trial but he has two others yet awaiting him. He has still to defend himself against the clamours of the troops for their arrears of pay and unless I am very much mistaken the Nizam has not entirely done with his accounts."

5 Your Excellency is sufficiently acquainted with the character and views of Munirul Moolk to judge how difficult I may almost say how impossible it is to deter him from the prosecution of his intrigues. He knows that his detection would expose him to the whole force of our resentment and by this time, he must see that although the Nizam makes use of him as a he he hates and despises him too much ever to entrust him with either confidence or authority. Yet such is his reliance on his own skill and cunning or so virulent his hatred of Chandu Lal or so irresistible his propensity to double dealing of every kind that no cautions or menaces of mine no sense of danger no regard for his own interests no kindness or conciliation on the part of Chandu Lal can act as any restraint upon his proceedings. The papers of which the following are translations have been sent by Munirul Moolk to his niece the Juhan Parwar Begum within the last six weeks. I procured them from the same quarter as those I submitted to your Excellency in my last address and I am as much satisfied of their being genuine as it is reasonable to be on any occasion of this suspicious nature.

Note from Munir ul Mulk to Juhan Parwar Begum

"During the investigation into the accounts His Highness directed me to depute my own people to every village, and make an arrangement for the districts of the Sirkar. No thought upon the subject has yet entered Chandu Lal's mind. Govind Buksh has concluded the ceremonies of the Dushera and Diwali and is applying to His Highness for leave to return to the Army. If an arrangement is not now effected according to my wishes it will go very hard with me next year. I am therefore reduced to the necessity of addressing an Arzee to His Highness. Immediately you receive it you must contrive some method of delivering it. Let me know when you have done so. For the future I shall do, whatever you desire."

Arzee to the Nizam enclosed in the above

‘Your Highness directed me to make an arrangement for the districts of the Sirkar and to ascertain the rate of the assets, and disbursements, and the amount that is really expended Chandulal has not yet given me any information of the state of the country, but relying on his connection with the English, has gone on applying and desolating it He is now also applying to your Highness to permit Govind Buksh to leave Hyderabad On this account I take the liberty of unreservedly calling your Highness’s attention to the real condition of affairs I have no recourse but in the shade of your Highness’s feet I therefore trust, that your Highness will be pleased to direct Chandulal, to attend at my house with the Duffer, and the Mootusuddies of the Sirkar, and to make an arrangement for the country I await your Highness’s orders to show, how much I will save to the Sirkar and what an increase I will make in the population. I have represented what was proper”

Second note from Munir-ul-Mulk to the Juhan Parwar Begum

“Rajah Chandulal has formed a close intimacy with Mr Russell, and depending on his friendship has resumed the districts of Aminul Moolk Bahadur, and Jamal Khan Lohanee between whom he has fabricated a story of a clandestine connection He invites the English every month to his garden, to ingratiate himself with them and entertains them with feasts and dancing, and in other ways, and presents them with thousands in money and jewels beyond the power of writing to describe God protect us, or what will become of us hereafter I confide you in the name of God and his prophet I bind you by an oath upon my head, to bring these things to His Highness’s hearing It will be very desirable for you to tell him, that Chandulal has formed so extraordinary an intimacy with the English, as cannot be described, that no month passes without his entertaining them to dancing, feasts and parties and in other ways If His Highness once hears this, there is no saying what views may not occur to him You must reflect in your own mind, upon what I have here proposed, and carry it into effect as soon as you can Chandulal now holds the intercourse with the English in his own hands It was from fear of His Highness, that I kept myself on one side when Mr Russell arrived here If providence is favourable to me, His Highness will perhaps resolve to get a new Resident, or I shall be reduced to the necessity of forming the same sort of connection with the English that Meer Allum did before I am quite in despair Without a connection with the English my affairs will never prosper, and Chandulal will never be brought to look up to me, or court me”

6 I have not been able to ascertain whether the Juhan Parwar Begum delivered Munirul Moolk’s Arzee or Message to the Nizam, but by what I can collect, I rather think she did not I have heard from various quarters, that she has been less in the Nizam’s favour lately than Chandulal’s patroness, the Chandni Begum,

and since the altercation about my audience the Nizam has not attempted to disturb the Rajah or to oppose him on any point whatever. The Rajah himself professes to believe that the Nizam still retains his partiality for him and his dislike of Munirul Moolk is certainly as great and as notorious as ever it was.

7 The Nizam's avarice and his jealousy of us are the passions to which Munirul Moolk principally addressed himself, and to which he will entirely owe any impression he may make upon the Nizam's mind. The measures of preventing Govind Buksh's return to Berar I heard some time ago was in Munirul Moolk's contemplation. His object was to strike a severe blow at Chandulal's authority and he hoped to bring the Nizam into his views by proposing to him to give his elder son Nasir-ood Dowlay the charge of Berar and to send Rao Rumbha with him as Dewan. As soon as I heard of this project I took care to let it be understood that I should resist it to very and in order to prevent Munirul Moolk having any time to mature his designs I desired Chandulal to send his brother back to Berar at once. The Rajah applied to the Nizam immediately and after some little delay obtained an audience of leave for Govind Buksh who has now actually left Hyderabad. Of the districts of Munirul Moolk's brother Ameenuol Mulk which he alludes to in his second note to the Julian Parwar Begum one was resumed at Aminul Moolk's own request on account of the turbulent spirit of the inhabitants the other was one of the districts in Berar allotted to Govind Buksh for the support of his establishment which he farmed some time ago to Aminul Moolk but being unable to realize the rent he applied to Chandulal to have it restored to him. None of the districts personally belonging to Aminul Moolk have been touched by Chandu Lal. Jamal Khan Lohance is a person who farmed several districts from the Government. He very foolishly and insolently set himself up in avowed opposition to Chandulal and compelled him at last to resume his lands.

8 But unless Chandulal is plotting in his turn and retorting upon his rival with his own weapons Munirul Moolk has lately attempted a more certain method of getting rid of the Rajah than either instigating a mob to attack him or making him an object of the Nizam's jealousy. Chandulal told me a few days ago that he had detected a conspiracy to poison him. Aminul Moolk, he said was the person with whom it had originated and his cook, the instrument who had been employed to effect the purpose. The cook had already received 5000 Rupees from his employers and was to receive 10,000 more upon the Rajah's death. Stories of this kind are so easily fabricated and so many witnesses can be procured to support them that they are always to be received with great caution. The most that can be said upon this occasion is that the charge is perfectly consistent with Munirul Moolk's character and habits and that Chandulal has taken every step which he probably would have taken if the story were really true. He has seized and confined his cook who has been brought

up by him from his infancy, the Soukar through whom the advance of 5,000 Rupees is said to have been made, and he now eats nothing, but what is dressed by the females of his own family.

9 Amidst all this enmity and interference Munirul Moolk and Chandulal preserve the most entirely cordiality of manner towards each other. They meet and sit together every day at the Durbar, Chandulal often visits Munirul Moolk at his own house, and when Govind Buksh called to take leave of him he spoke of Chandulal in the handsomest and warmest terms, expressing the regret at the pains taken by their mutual enemies to sow dissension between them, and repeated the solemn oaths he had so often taken before that he considered Chandulal as his brother, and that he would resign the Dewanee tomorrow if any other person were appointed Peshkar.

10 As soon as I received the news of the glorious success of our arms at Batavia, I communicated it to Chandulal, and told him that I intended to fire a salute both at the Residency and in the Cantonment. The Rajah sent my note to the Nizam, and reminded him, that it was usual on such occasions for a salute to be fired in the city, but the Nizam took no notice of the hint, and the Rajah therefore ordered the salute to be fired of his own accord. The Nizam did not venture to find fault with him openly, for having done so, but he said to one of his attendants, "What are their victories to me, who share neither in the honour nor the advantage? No father takes delight in a child that is not of his own begetting."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Hyderabad

The 31st October 1811

H RUSSELL,

Resident at Hyderabad

Translation of a note from Henry Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, to Rajah Chandulal, dated the 29th December 1811

I have this day received letters from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General for His Highness the Nizam, and Munirul Moolk, communicating the happy intelligence of the entire reduction of the island of Java and of His Lordship's safe return to Calcutta, and I am therefore anxious to have the honour of an audience of His Highness. I request that you will have the goodness to communicate this to His Highness and to inform me what day His Highness may be pleased to appoint

Translation of a note from Rajah Chandalul to Henry Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 29th December 1811

I have the honour to receive your note mentioning recapitulate the Resident's note of this date.

According to your desire I will by the blessing of God submit your note in a proper manner to His Highness tomorrow and let you know what day may be fixed for your audience

Translation of a paper delivered to His Highness the Nizam by Munirul Mulk on the 6th January 1812

I beg leave to submit to your Highness for the present the plan which suggests itself to my feeble understanding. If your Highness is pleased to approve of it it shall not be departed from in the smallest degree. My representation is this. I will myself submit personally to your Highness whatever representations may be necessary in the business of the Sirkar and when your Highness may be pleased to remain in the inner apartments if any thing important should occur I will represent it through the Asseels of the Juhan Parwar Begum and nothing shall be done which may be offensive to the Begum or in any way displeasing to her

Translation of a letter from Henry Russell, Esq., Resident at Hyderabad to His Highness the Nizam dated the 13th January 1812.

On the 29th of December I informed Rajah Chandalul that I had received letters from the Right Honble the Governor-General for your Highness and Munirul Moolk and desired that he will communicate it to your Highness and request that your Highness would be pleased to appoint a day for me to have the honour of waiting upon your Highness to deliver the letters. But although a fortnight has passed I have not yet received any satisfactory answer. I therefore beg leave to address your Highness and to request that you will inform me on what day it may be your Highness's pleasure to receive me.

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Nizam to Henry Russell Esq Resident at Hyderabad, received on the 18th January 1812

I have received your letter applying for an audience to deliver the letters of the Governor-General. You will come to the Durbar as usual on the morning of the 14th of Mohurram 1227

What more need be written.

True translations.

CHARLES RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

SINDHIA'S AFFAIRS

Letter No 1.—This forms the enclosure to Mercer's letter to Jenkins. He informs the Governor General about the disputes between the Rajput states, and the negotiations between them and the Sindhia and Holkar, for refraining from interference in the affairs of Jaipur.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, BART.,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Sindhia's Camp, the 6th February 1807.

HON'BLE SIR,

The Jaipur Vakeel Ram Kishan Bhorah arrived in Camp on the 2nd instant. The result of his conferences with the Durbar has been a resolution to detach Rajah Ambajee and Bappoo Sindia with a body of horse towards Jaipur for the purpose of securing Sindia's interests with the Rajah, whilst His Highness with the remainder of the Army is to continue in this neighbourhood, until Ambajee's communications with the Jaipur Durbar might enable him to judge of the expediency of Sindhia's march to that quarter.

2. Ambajee has accordingly pitched his tent at a short distance from the Army, but a considerable delay in his departure may still be occasioned by the impressions which has been seditiously attempted to be made on Sindia's mind in regard to Ambajee's intentions, together with the difficulty of paying up the troops who are to accompany him, and the advice which has been given to His Highness, to protract Ambajee's march until he shall have discharged the amount due from him which has not yet been effected, notwithstanding the delivery of the Fort of Gwalior to his people.

3. It has been at the same time strongly urged to Sindia both by Ambajee's party and the Jaipur Vakeel that the crisis to which the dispute between the Rajput states has been now brought can not admit of any delay in the measures he may resolve to pursue, and that the Jaipur Rajah is already in Treaty with Holkar for his relinquishing all interference in the business and retiring into Malwa which if effected will render Sindia's assistance useless and deprive from prompt measures. To provide for this state of affairs an engagement has been taken from the Jaipur Vakeel for the payment of ten lakh of rupees on this sole condition of Sindia's not assisting Rajah Mansingh and a promise that the tribute which may be hereafter settled for Sindia with Dhokul Singh should be under this responsibility of Rajah Jugget Singh.

4. The accounts which have been received from Ramchander Pundit Sindia's Vakeel in Holkar's Camp also state that Holkar is negotiating with the Jaipur Rajah through Bhow Bhaskar for a sum of money to relinquish all interference in the dispute and that he had accordingly under various pretences hitherto evaded joining Mansingh with his troops whilst the Bikaner and Pokrah Rajahs had arrived with their forces near the Jaipur Camp and were immediately to join that Chief who was encamped at a short distance from Mansingh's Army and had ordered his troops to forage in the Jodhpore territory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Kemlassar

G MERCER,

The 6th February 1807

Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No 2.—The enclosure is Mercer's letter to the Governor General in which he reports the details of the interference of the Holkar and Sindhia in the affairs of Jaipur and Jodhpur

FROM—G MERCER RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp the 28th February 1807

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my dispatch of the 25th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM

SIR,

I had the honour to address you on the 10th instant

2 Rajah Ambajee moved yesterday four coss from this camp, but as many of the troops who are to accompany him have not as yet joined him, it is probable that some days may still elapse before he proceeds on his march towards Jaipore. Baptiste's Brigade, which was by the latest accounts near Kotah has been, in the meantime ordered to join Bala Engleah in the Jaipore Camp. Ambajee is to be joined on his march by three Battalions from the Gwalior District

3 Jaswant Rao Holkar continues to negotiate with the Jaipore Rajah for his retiring from all interference in the dispute between that Chief and Rajah Man Singh but the Jaipore Rajah has been urged by this Durbar to delay the payment of any money in consequence of an agreement of this nature till Ambajee's arrival whilst Holkar is endeavouring to force a speedy conclusion of it by plundering the villages of the Jaipore territory

4 The parties principally concerned in the dispute appear at the same time to avoid actual hostilities with each other as they must both be sensible of the views of Sindia and Holkar in their interference. It is still possible that they may by mutual concession adjust their differences and avoid the serious evils likely to be entailed upon them by permitting these Chiefs to become arbiters in their family contests

5 Should no such adjustment however take place although I am fully convinced that the views of both Sindia and Holkar are confined at present to the object of obtaining money from both parties and that neither of them are inclined to engage in actual hostilities with the other, yet it appears difficult to surmise how this object can be prosecuted by both without the risk of an open rupture. The consequence of Holkar's retiring from an interference in the present dispute of a sum of money from the Jaipur Rajah, would be a decided superiority of influence and authority with all the Rajput states in favour of Sindia who would remain the sole arbiter and as the exactions which Holkar has hitherto been enabled to raise upon these states have formed a very principal resource for the support of his troops, it is not probable that he would abide by an engagement to this purport however solemnly concluded farther than might be necessary to secure an immediate advance of money. He has entirely failed in his endeavours to adjust by his mediation the difference between the Jaipore and Jodhpore Rajahs the success of which would have enabled him to extricate himself with credit from his present embarrassment and although he may reasonably hope from the indecision and levity of this Durbar that full advantage will not be taken of the favourable circumstances under which Sindia could at present enter into a close connection with the Jaipore

state, yet he appears to consider Ambajee's mission as a proof that Sindia is well inclined to avail himself of them and has repeatedly endeavoured to prevent it.

6. Ambajee's future influence and favour with Sindia must in a great measure depend upon the success of the measure with the execution of which he has been entrusted and of which he has been the principal adviser. It is generally believed in the Durbar that Ambajee's personal animosity to Holkar would induce him to take any favourable opportunity which might arise of promoting a contest between him and Sindia. This circumstance, with the avowed intention of Ambajee to deprive Serjee Rao Ghatka of his influence and authority in the Udaipore Government has been seriously urged to Sindia by a party in the Durbar with the view of preventing his mission and although these representations have failed in their principal object yet it is supposed that the measure of giving the command of a great part of the troops under Ambajee to Bappoojee Sindia who is well disposed towards Holkar has been adopted with the intention of obviating the effects of a contrary disposition on the part of Ambajee. This reason has I understand been assigned to Holkar's Vakeels for sending Bapoojee Sindia and should it be the real one the precaution by fettering Ambajee's exertions may probably deflect the principal object of his mission that of obtaining money from the Jaipore Rajah who will not be inclined to give any considerable amount without being secured by vigorous measures on the part of Ambajee from the enmity of Holkar or a positive declaration of hostility with the latter should he join Rajah Man Singh.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Khemlassar
The 25th February 1807

G MERCER,
Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No 3.—The enclosure is a letter from Mercer to Governor-General in which the former reports the accounts of Rajah Man Singh's (Jodhpur) return from Jaipur

FROM—G MERCER RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, the 29th March 1807

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my letter to the address of the Hon^{ble} the Governor-General in Council of yesterday's date.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM

HON'BLE SIR,

Nothing of importance has occurred in this Durbar since I had the honour to address you on the 15th instant

2 Jeswant Rao Holkar has arrived in the vicinity of Kotah, where it is supposed he will remain until he shall have realized the amount to be paid to him by the Jaipore Rajah, which had been granted by bills on that place

3 The account which have been received of Rajah Man Singh having retired with precipitation from before the Jaipur Army only differ in respect to the loss he has sustained. It would appear however that he had lost some guns and a great part of his baggage. His Vakeels at this Durbar assign as a reason for this conduct contrary to the generally allowed spirit of the Rathore Rajpoots, that Mansingh had discovered a treacherous communication between the Thakurs or Chiefs who had hitherto supported him and those on the party of Dhokul Singh, and under such circumstances did not deem it advisable to hazard an action. This statement would appear to be confirmed by a number of those Chiefs having since his retreat, joined the Jaipur army. Mansingh himself is said to have retired to the strong fort of Jalare and although it is not probable that he will again be enabled to collect a force sufficient to oppose the Jaipore army in the field, yet by confining himself to defensive operations, he may oblige the Jaipore Rajah to enter into terms with him, as the heavy expenses of the Jaipore Army are already become burthensome and if Rajah Juggut Singh can accomplish the original object of his interference—his marriage at Udaipore—there is little doubt that he would be inclined to settle Dhokul Singh's pretensions on easy terms

4 The force which marched from the Jaipore army to attack Rajah Mansingh's Camp was principally composed of Meer Khan's Troops and the Hyderabad Rassallah formerly in Holkar's service whilst the troops which had been allowed by Holkar to join Mansingh under Jeolaul Baboo do not appear to have made any resistance. Holkar's conduct towards Rajah Mansingh is reprobated even in this Durbar and his influence and authority with both parties has certainly suffered by it

5 The late accounts from Delhi that His Majesty Akbar Shah was about to enter his tents and the declaration of Rajah Mansingh's Vakeel here that he had dispatched another Vakeel to the Resident at Delhi and had resolved from the treachery he had experienced to resign his country to the British Government had impressed in this Durbar suspicions that some measure might be taken by the Government in favour of Mansingh. I

directed my Moonshy to explain to the Maharajah the circumstance of His Majesty proposing to make a short circuit of the environs of Delhi and to repeat my appearances that no interference in favour of any party was intended by the Government. I also took an opportunity yesterday at a visit to Anna Siccanaiah on the occasion of his son receiving the Bhraminical string to urge to him and to Gopal Rao Bhow the unreasonableness of such suspicions which I derived from the principle upon which you had uniformly acted towards Sindia's Government and upon which you had declared your resolution to act in regard to the other states of Hindostan and added that no preferred advantage could induce you to depart from this principle. They both declared that they were satisfied in regard to the friendly disposition of the Government towards Sindia but asked me to wish to the Resident at Delhi not to attend to the representations of Rajah Man Singh's Vakeels on this subject. I replied that this was totally unnecessary as the Resident at Delhi acted under the same orders that I did and would consequently give the same answer to any representation that might be made by them. Anna then said that he was confident the Maharajah would be entirely satisfied by which I had stated.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect

Hon'ble Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Camp near Khemlassar

G MERCER

The 28th March 1807

Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No 4.—The enclosure is a letter from Mercer to the Governor-General in which he adverts to the affairs of Angria-Moorarji Angria, Baboo Rao Angria and the conflicts between Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

To—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp the 15th April 1807

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 14th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

P S

16th April 1807

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my letter of this date to the Secretary to the Government in the Political Department.

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR G H BARLOW, BART, GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM

HON'BLE SIR,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 7th instant I have received from the Sub-Secretary to the Bombay Government a copy of a letter to your address from the Governor in Council of that Presidency dated the 7th ultimo stating the measures pursued in consequence of the attack upon Colabah made by the partisans of Morarjee Angria. The Resident at Poona has also transmitted to me copies of his correspondence with the Bombay Government on that subject and of his address to you of the 3rd ultimo.

2 I have communicated the circumstances detailed in these letters to Dowlat Rao Sindia, stating the reasons which had induced the Bombay Government to interfere, and he has expressed himself much pleased with the attention which has been paid by the Bombay Government to the interests of Baboo Rao Angria.

3 On the 25th ultimo I received from the Durbar a representation of the conduct of Morarjee Angria in exciting disturbances against Baboo Rao Angria, with request from Sindia that I would transmit it to the Resident at Poona as he was extremely anxious that nothing should occur to prevent Baboo Rao Angria from proceeding to this Camp for which he had made preparations when these disturbances commenced. This request I accordingly complied with.

* * * *

5 The accounts from the Westward have been of late very deficient. It appears however that the Jaipore Troops had taken possession of the town and fort of Nagore and had proclaimed Dhokul Singh in that province. It is further reported that the Jaipur Rajah had himself arrived within a short distance of Jodhpore and entertained hopes of Dhokul Singh's being also acknowledged in that Capital. Rajah Man Singh was said to be encamped about 15 coss from Jodhpore.

6 Jeswant Rao Holkar continued encamped near Kotah on the 9th instant. He perseveres in his solicitations to Sindia for a meeting, which, however have been evaded as formerly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

Camp near Khemlassar

The 14th April 1807

G MERCER,

Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia

Letter No 5.—Edmonstone has been intimated that Chitoo the leader of the Pindaries had been brought a prisoner to the Camp of the Sindhia.

FROM—G MERCER RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—N B EDMONSTONE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FORT WILLIAM

Camp near Khemlassar the 16th April 1807

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo directing me to state to Dowlat Rao Sindia the just expectation of the British Government that he would furnish the late outrages of the Pindaries in the person of their leader I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of the Honble the Governor General in Council that Cheetoo Pindarah was yesterday brought to this Camp under a guard of Sindia's horse and is now in confinement. As both the principal leaders of these predatory bands are now in Sindia's power it may be reasonably hoped that a repetition of the outrages complained of may for a certain time, at least be prevented though from the confirmed habits of the Pindarahs the permanent security of the countries when their depredations have been committed must still in a great measure depend upon the activity of the troops stationed in them.

2 Since I had the honour to address to the Honble the Governor-General on the 14th instant accounts have been received from the Jaipur Army of the 2nd instant by which it appears that the siege of the city of Jodhpore had been commenced.

Letter No 6.—The enclosure to this letter from Mercer to the Governor-General dated 8th May reports the activities of Sindhia regarding the siege of Raotgarh, the occupation of Jodhpur by the Jaipur Army the encampment of the Holkar near Kotah and the disposition of the Rajput Rajahs and Sindhia's Sirdars.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp the 10th May 1807

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my dispatch No 68 of the 8th instant to the address of the Honourable the Governor-General in council for your information

TO—HONOURABLE SIR G H BARLOW BART., K. B.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM.

This Army continues engaged in the siege of the fort of Raot Ghur in which however but little progress has been hitherto made and the troops employed have suffered considerably. Negotiations have been entered into with the Garrison for the payment of a

sum of money but nothing has as yet been adjusted, though it appears probable that the approach of the rains, and deficiency of ammunition for the Battering Guns, will force Sindia to settle matters with them upon the terms proposed

2 The Jaipur Army had obtained possession of the town of Jodhpur, but the fort still held out by the latest accounts received in this Camp and Rajah Man Singh had refused the proposition made to him for his retiring to Jalore.

3 Holkar continues encamped near Kotah and no mention is made to his intention to move from that position

4 Rajah Ambajee and Bappoojee Sindia are proceeding very slowly towards the Jaipur Camp The clashing interests of these Sirdars have occasioned as might have been expected, violent disputes between them, and mutual complaints of the conduct of each other have been transmitted to the Durbar The troops have plundered and raised contributions on the villages of the Jaipur country on the route by which they have marched, and this conduct has afforded the Jaipore Durbar a plausible argument for withholding the payment of the amount promised to Sindia Ambajee has urged the necessity of Sindia's moving in the direction of Jaipur for the purpose of assisting his negotiations, but this measure is not considered by the Durbar as likely to be advantageous and indeed Ambajee's friends here appear to have little hopes of the ultimate success of his mission It is reported that intrigues are successfully carried and in the Jaipore Durbar against the Dewan Race Chand, the sole advisor of the late measure, that Meer Khan and some of the other leaders of the subsidiary troops have interested themselves to prevent Man Singh's total expulsion and that the Jaipur Rajah himself has expressed a great anxiety for a termination of the warfare in which he had engaged himself and a wish to encourage terms of agreement between Rajah Man Singh and Dhokul Singh

5 In consequence of these circumstances Sindia has written to Rajah Jugget Singh, that should he violate the agreement entered into for the payment of the money he (Sindia), would accede to the propositions which had been repeatedly made to him of joining Holkar and Rajah Man Singh against him, and hinting that he possessed other and sufficient means of furnishing such a breach of faith by supporting the claim of Man Singh, the supposed posthumous son Rajah Pirtee Singh, the elder brother of Pertaule Singh, the present Rajah's father, and consequently the supposed legal heir to the Musnud of Jaipore With a view of giving some weight to this latter threat Sindia has directed that attention should be paid to Man Singh, who has long resided at Gwalior and has been supported by the contributions of some of the principal families in the Jaipur country as well as by a small Jaghire from Sindia

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp near Raotghur .
The 8th May 1807

G MERCER

Letter No 7.—Mercer reports that the Sindia was still busy in the siege of Raotghur. It has been contemplated that his troops and Nagpur troops are to join for attacking Hoshangabad. Nagpur troops had already taken Makrai the principal fort of Chitoo. The Jaipur army was still engaged in the siege of Jodhpur. The Sindhia wanted to prevent the marriage of Jaipur Rajah with the princess of Udaipur. Holkar was still encamped near Kotah and wanted to march to the assistance of Rajah Man Singh of Jaipur since he had received money from him.

FROM—G. MERCEUR, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Camp near Raotgarh the 18th May 1807

I had the honour to address you on the 8th instant

2. Dowlat Rao Sindhia perseveres in the siege of the fort of Raotghur although with but little prospect of ultimate success. His Highness has lately made over to the Nagpur Rajah the districts of Seoni and Gunge Basoudah for a sum of money and proposals have been made by the Nagpur Vakeels for their jointly taking possession of the Bhopal country whilst the Manager Meer Mohammad Khan has hitherto evaded every endeavour to induce him to come to this camp or to pay the tribute settled with him by Sindia and is preparing to resist the plan in agitation against the Bhopal Government. It is reported that a party of the troops of the Nagpur Rajah has obtained possession of Muckray the principal fort of Cheetoo Pinwarah and that Sindia's troops now in the Saugor district are to join this party for the purpose of attacking the fort of Hoshangabad on the Nerbuddah which is at present in possession of the Bhopal people, but formerly belonged to the Nagpur Government.

3. These measures appear however to be adopted by Sindia merely to procure a present supply of money from the Nagpur Rajah and the prosecution of them on his part must depend in a great measure on the result of Ambajee's mission who continues to urge the necessity of Sindia's marching in the direction of Jaipur as the only means of enabling him to effect the object of it.

4. The Jaipur Army continued by the latest accounts engaged in the siege of the fort of Jodhpore. Several of the Rathore Thakoots who had joined the Jaipore Rajah have again left him, on a dispute with Seway Singh the Manager on the part of Dhokul Singh respecting their Jagheers. The Rajah's principal object seems now to be to effect his marriage at Udaipore, which Sindia has written to Ambajee and all his retainers in that quarter to prevent by every means of their power until his demand on the Jaipore Rajah shall be settled.

5 Holkar is still encamped in the vicinity of Kotah. He has made heavy demands on Ranah Jai Singh, which the latter declared he is totally unable to discharge. Holkar has been urged to march to the assistance of Rajah Man Singh now that he has obtained the money from the Rajah of Jaipore. His solicitation he has evaded on the grounds of his not being able to quit his present position until he shall have settled his demands on Kotah and Boondee but he still keeps up a regular communication with Rajah Man Singh from whom Vakeels have been sent also to this Durbar and have arrived within a few marches from the Camp.

Letter No 8—In the enclosure which he addressed to the Governor-General, dated the 13th August, Mercer reports that negotiations had been continuing between Rajah Man Singh of Jaipur and Rajah Ambajee Inglia and Bapoo Sindhia on behalf of Dowlat Rao. Further, he reports the possibility of a marriage between Dowlat Rao and a daughter of Baboo Rao Angria which was designed to reduce the influence of Baija Bai and Sarji Rao Ghatgay.

FROM—G. MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR

Camp near Roatghur, the 15th August 1807

I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of my dispatch of the 13th instant to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

TO—THE HONBLE SIR G. H. BARLOW, BART, K. B.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, FORT
WILLIAM

HON'BLE SIR,

I have had the honour to receive through Mr Secretary Monckton your letter to Dowlat Rao Sindia announcing to him the victory obtained over the French by the Russian Army in Poland. I immediately sent a message to His Highness requesting to know when it would be convenient for him to receive my visit for the purpose of delivering this letter. He replied that his present situation and the state of the weather induced him to wish that my visit should be delayed for some days, but that he would take an early opportunity of appointing a day for that purpose.

2 The heavy rains which have fallen almost incessantly for these last fifteen days have prevented Sindia from making any progress in the siege of Roatghur and the Garrison being well supplied with provisions and stores, show no disposition to surrender it to him.

3. Rajah Ambajee has written to the Durbar in strong terms respecting the measures pursued by Bappoo Sindia in his negotiations with Rajah Man Singh and after much consultation it has been resolved by the Durbar to abide by the original intention of supporting the Jaipore Rajah's views. This resolution appears to be formed entirely upon the consideration of Rajah Man Singh's want of means to fulfil the promises of money of which he has been lavish and to be unconnected with any political object on the part of Sindia farther than the immediate relief of his necessities by the expected payment from the Rajah of Jaipur. It may seem to confirm the opinion that upon Ambajee and Bapoo Sindia commencing separate negotiations Baptiste who commands the principal Infantry force attached to these Chiefs requested Sindia's orders with respect to his own conduct and the answer returned to him was that he should join that party which should appear the most likely to be successful in obtaining money. Bappoo Sindia had engaged Meer Khan and Serjee Rao Ghautka who had both quitted the Jaipore Army as parties in his proposed measure in favour of Rajah Man Singh the manager on the part of Dhokul Singh who had been sent from the Jaipore Army for the purpose of conciliating Bapoo Sindia and the Rathore Thakurs who had left Dhokul Singh's party it was supposed that these Chiefs would immediately separate from Bapoo Sindia.

4. Baboo Rao Angreah had not by the latest accounts reached Ujjain where it is supposed he will remain until he shall have fully ascertained the footing he is to be upon in the Durbar and the views of the party by whose advice Sindia has so earnestly solicited him to proceed to this camp. The principal object of the Minister is I understand to promote a marriage between Sindia and a daughter of Baboo Rao Angreah a connection which they conceive may serve to reduce the influence of Baizah Bai and the party of Serjee Rao Ghautka of whose possible return to power they still entertain the greatest apprehensions. Balajee Kunjur has I learn informed the Durbar of his intentions of proceeding to Camp with Baboo Rao Angreah.

I have the honour to be,

Etc., etc.

Camp near Raotghur
The 13th August 1807

GROME MERCER
Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Letter No. 9.—This forms an enclosure to letter No 55. Mercer reports that the relations between Sindhia and Ambaji Inglia are becoming unpleasant. It appeared likely that Sindhia instead of co-operating with Nagpur Raja for the conquest of Bhopal would think of personally interfering in the disputes of the Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs. The troops of Holkar were discontented and about to seize him,

when he advanced the arrears of their pay. Amir Khan and Sarji Rao Ghatgay while plundering Jaipur territory were defeated in an engagement by Jaipur troops near Kisangarh but defeated the Jaipur troops in a second engagement.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Camp near Raotgarh, the 7th September 1807

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter to Dowlat Rao Sindia transmitted by the Persian Secretary to the Government which I yesterday delivered to His Highness together with the Hon'ble Sir George Barlow's letter announcing your Lordship's nomination. Information had been given to Sindia of the contents of Sir G Barlow's letter but I had no previous opportunity of delivering it in person, His Highness having held no Duibar for many days past. Sindia expressed his happiness at your Lordship's safe arrival and his confidence that the friendship which subsisted between the two Governments would be confirmed and improved under your Lordship's administration.

2 Your Lordship will have been apprized of the leading circumstances connected with the state of this Durbar. Sindia from his fondness for frivolous amusements and aversion to business has generally entrusted the conduct of his affairs to his Ministers. At present however there is no person who possesses the exclusive authority or influence of a Minister and although Rajah Ambajee Engleah before his departure on his mission to the Jaipore Raja was considered in that light yet the mutual injuries which had been sustained by both in past transactions whilst they tended to destroy that unreserved confidence, on the part of Sindia, which he had been accustomed to give to his Ministers served also to prevent any cordial attachment on the part of Ambajee to the Maharajah's interest. Ambajee has hitherto failed in the sole object of his mission that of obtaining money for Sindia, for, although he has certainly secured money from the Jaipore Raja, he has remitted none to the Durbar. This circumstance with the clamour of the troops of this army for pay and the total failure in the attempts to take the fort of Roatghur which has been besieged for above five months has so incensed Sindia against Ambajee's party in the Durbar who have conducted his affairs, that he has refused for some days past to admit them into his presence and it was only yesterday that they were called upon to attend for the purpose of being present at my visit.

3 It is not probable that this Army will move from its present grounds until after the Dashreh in the course of next month and although Sindia who has entered into engagements with the

Raja of Nagpur for the conquest of the Bhopal country which the death of the late Nawab Hyaut Mohammed Khan may seem to facilitate yet as Sindia appears to have given up hopes of obtaining more money from the Nagpur Rajah on the grounds of his engagements it is likely that he will not neglect the more important objects he may hope to attain by a personal interference in the disputes of the Rajah of Jaipore and Jodhpore and that his march may be directed to the north westward

4 Jeswant Rao Holkar continues in his cantonment at Ban poorah on the banks of the Chumbul His troops had been in a state of mutiny and had proceeded to the extremity of seizing his person and confining him in the camp of the infantry Brigade until he delivered over to them his principal Banker to satisfy them in regard to their arrears of pay No renewal appears to have been lately made of his proposals for a junction with Sindia. He informs Sindia that no sincere reconciliations can take place whilst he continues to be guided by the advice of Ambajee and his party and accuses Ambajee of intriguing with his (Holkars) officers for the purpose of deposing him in favour of his brother Kashi Rao Holkar In conformity to this intimation of the intrigues whether real or pretended which were carrying on he has sent his brother in confinement to the fort of Hinglojghur near his present cantonment

5 * * * * * Ameer Khan and Serjy Rao Ghatley who had separated from the Jaipore Army proceeded to plunder the Jaipore country when a force was detached against them by the Rajah under Sheolal Buksee Sheolal appears to have been successful in a skirmish with these troops which took place near Kishangarh but in a second engagement 30 miles from Jaipore after Meer Khan had been joined by his Infantry Brigade under Mohammed Shah Khan, the Jaipore troops were completely defeated with the loss of guns and baggage This circumstance will probably oblige the Jaipore Raja to relinquish the siege of Jodhpore and to return to his own Capital as it is confidently reported to be Holkar's intention to take advantage of Meer Khan's success by joining him with his Army and exacting money from the Rajah for his fort at so critical a juncture as mode of conduct which he adopted at the commencement of these disputes when he had engaged to join the party of Rajah Man Singh of Jodhpore against that Rajah. Such a measure appears to be entirely consistent with Holkar's usual policy and will tend to bring matters to a crisis between him and Sindia as the latter will be determined on joining Holkar in his exactions on the Jaipore Rajah or supporting the interests of the Rajah against Holkar by the prospect held out to him on either side of an immediate advance of money or by the temporary prevalence in his Durbar of the party of Serjee Rao Ghautika or that of Ambajee.

Letter No 10—This is an enclosure to his letter to Jenkins in which Mercer conveys the information that the agents of the Bhonsla had been pressing the Sindhia's agent for joint operations against Bhopal and that Ramchandra Appa, Sindia's Agent, had gone to the Holkar for discussing the terms of an offensive and defensive alliance, which are also mentioned in this letter. The terms are important.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-
GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

Sindhia's Camp, the 14th November 1807

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has at length succeeded in his negotiations with the Garrison of Raotghur for the evacuation of that Fort, which was taken possession of yesterday on the condition that a portion of country in the vicinity belonging to Sindhia shall be made over to the proprietors of Raotghur equal in revenue to the lands attached to the fort.

2 Sindhia has not as yet come to any determination respecting his own movements. The Vakeels of the Nagpur Rajah are urgent with him to remain in this quarter for the purpose of carrying on joint operations against the Bhopal state, and as his hopes of profiting by the disputes of the Jaipur and Jodhpore Rajahs must now be extinguished whilst promises are held out to him of an additional sum of money from Raghoji Bhonsla for his co-operation it is not improbable that he may continue in this neighbourhood for some months should he not be obliged by the unsettled state of matters in the Gohud Provinces to march to the northward

3 Ramchand Appa, Sindhia's Vakeel to Holkar, who was stated in my last address to your Lordship to have taken his leave from Holkar, has arrived in this Camp. From the best information I have been hitherto able to obtain of the nature of the negotiations which have been carrying on by Ramchand with Holkar, it appears that they have been calculated to form a basis for a general offensive and defensive alliance between the two states and the following has been delivered to me as a correct statement of the purport of the several propositions now brought by Ramchandra Appa for Sindhia's approval —

- 1st That both Chiefs should consider the Peshwa as their sovereign and obey his orders by which means he may regain his former dignity and authority
- 2nd That they should consult and act jointly in any enterprise which they may think proper to undertake and that no new arrangements or operations should be undertaken without a previous mutual consultation.

- 3rd That they should both avoid injuring or oppressing the servants or Sardars of the Peshwa who hold lands in the various parts of the country and on the contrary should both assist and support them if injured by others.
- 4th That neither party should encourage or protect the Sardars who might quit the service of the other
- 5th That orders should be given to the Sardars of either state who might have occasion to march through the districts of the other to pay the utmost attention to the protection of them
- 6th That should either of the two states be attacked by any other state, both should make a common cause of it
- 7th That the tribute from Jaipore and Jodhpore should be collected in concert and should be divided equally between them
- 8th That they should continue to observe the same rules of friendship towards each other as had been observed by their ancestors
- 9th That no Zamindars flying from the country of either party should be protected
- 10th That if they should conquer any new country it should be equally divided between them
- 11th That if any Sirdar of either state should exact money from the country of the other the amount should be allowed to be credited in their mutual accounts.

4. The tenor of these articles is I understand extracted from the original engagements entered into by Sindhia and Holkar at Subbulghur in the beginning of the year 1805 under the management of Serjee Rao Ghatka, but as this engagement contained articles particularly inimical to the British Government and was virtually dissolved by the subsequent treaties executed by both parties with the Government the above has been considered as a proper basis for renewing the connections which have been interrupted from that period. The articles stipulating for an equal division of the Jaipore and Jodhpore tributes and for each party rejecting the service of the Sardars who may quit the service of the other are not newly introduced by Holkar who writes that if the former is agreed to he will immediately proceed with his army to Shapoorah from whence he will be enabled to carry on the negotiations with the Jaipore and Jodhpur Rajahs for their mutual benefit.

5. The present Ministers of the Durbar with the exception of Gopal Rao Bhau are very averse to enter into any intimate connection with Holkar of which they consider the return of Sarjee Rao Ghatka to power as a necessary consequence and still hope that they may have influence sufficient to replace Ambajee in the management of Sindhia's affairs. Letters have been accordingly

written to Ambajee by the Maharajah and the Minister assuring him that no blame is attached to his conduct from the failure of his mission and desiring him to return to camp I understand . . . whether Ambajee will again trust himself in the power of Sindhia Gopal Rao Bhau interferes but little in the affairs of the Durbar but appears inclined to favour the negotiations with Holkar from his nephew Ramchandra Appah having the management of them and from his being less anxious than the others regarding the apprehended return of Ghautka

6. Sindhia has as yet returned no answer to Holkar's pressing solicitation for the speedy return of the Vakeels with the articles executed and seems inclined to delay any final resolution on the subject . . . that the negotiation may terminate without any further result but should it be concluded there can be little doubt that the agreement will be no longer acted upon when it may be found inconvenient to the interests of either party of period which from the characters and views of the contracting parties cannot be distant I shall however attentively watch the progress of it, and regularly submit to your Lordship such information as I may be enabled to obtain respecting it

Letter No 11—This is an enclosure to his letter to Jenkins, dated 13th December 1807 Mercer encloses a copy of the proposed terms of friendship between Holkar and Sindhia.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Camp near Raotgañh, the 11th December 1807

The enclosed is a translation from a copy of the propositions sent by Holkar to Dowlat Rao Sindia which I obtained (in figures)

2 (In figures) another copy of these propositions which differ only in the following points from that of which the translation is now sent that the latter part of the 9th article is entirely omitted and it contains . . . for the . . . Vakeel . . . upon, is written as a proposition on the part of Sindhia to which is annexed, as an answer a direct refusal on the part of Holkar That this might have been the state of the case when Sindhia's demand was first made I have little doubts, but I am inclined to believe that the copy from which the translation is now sent is correct and that Holkar considers his agreement to this demand as the only foundation to his hopes of obtaining Sindhia's consent to the other articles The flattering prospect held out to

Sindhia of the receipt of a large sum of money might influence him notwithstanding his knowledge of Holkar's character and poverty whilst there is nothing in the other articles from which he could derive any immediate advantage (In figures) was asked the purport of the article which renewed the agreement at Subbulghur. He replied that he knew nothing certain. Holkar had many at Subbulghur to which no person was admitted that the result of these conferences was the seizure and plunder of Ambajee and he therefore supposed that the present article might also have reference to him.

3. Nothing farther has been done by the Durbar in regard to these propositions nor have I had as yet an opportunity of making enquiries into the purport of some of the articles which appears to be rendered purposely obscure. I shall however use every endeavour to obtain the necessary information on these points.

4. The Nagpur Vakeels have communicated to this Durbar the demands made upon the Rajah by Holkar as stated in Mr Jenkins address to your Lordship No 5 and have been desired by Sindhia to encourage their master to resist them. The Rajah himself has also I understand written letters to Sindhia and his Ministers on the same subject and a letter was I understand received from Holkar by Sindhia which stated his confidence that from the friendship which existed between them he (Sindhia) would not interfere in any plan which he (Holkar) might form to recover a part of the heavy losses he had suffered in the war with the British Government but added that if he should be disappointed in this confidence a quarrel must ensue.

5. It may be only necessary to remark upon these circumstances that whilst they are entirely subversive of the proposed engagements between Sindhia and Holkar in their principal objects they serve also to evince how little is to be apprehended from such a compact if actually formed between parties so disposed towards each other.

Translation from Persian translation of a Marrattah copy of the propositions made by Jeswant Rao Holkar to Dowlat Rao Sindhia

1. His Highness the Peshwa is our Sovereign and we are his servants let us therefore continue like our ancestors to obey his orders.

2. Let us keep on friendly terms with the Boonslah and other Sardars of the Peshwa and let us consult with them on all occasions.

3. Let the agreement which passed between us at Subbulghur under the sanction of our oaths be firmly abided by and let not the terms of the friendship which existed between our ancestors be departed from.

4 Any officers or aumils of either party who may proceed into the country of the other with a force, will take the greatest care to preserve the country Should they contrary to the orders of their master exact any money from the country, their master will account for it.

5 Should any new enterprize be contemplated it shall be carried on by mutual consultation

6 That our friendship may be preserved, and doubts between us be done away, let neither party endeavour to tamper with the army of the other, and should any Sardar quit the service of either party, let him not be retained by the other

7 The money collected by Meer Khan from the Mohauls of Sadoura and other the five Mohauls shall be repaid to Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindhia

8 Let the money which may have been collected by the Soobahdar of one party from the Mohauls of the other since the settlement of differences took place at Subbulghur be accounted for mutually

9 Let a respectable Vakeel from each party attend the Durbar of the other, who may by his being a well-wisher of both, so act as to prevent disputes or doubts arising in either party, let the tribute from the other Rajahs and wealthy chiefs unconnected with us as the Gaikwar and others remain in the hands of those who have been accustomed to collect them In this we have no concern Should however it so happen that any new arrangement in regard to them should be proposed let it be prosecuted by our joint council and consent

10 If any of the ministers or aumils of either party should treacherously seek the protection of the other let him not be protected but let him be delivered over to the state he belongs to or if such person should be a man of rank let the matter of dispute be fairly enquired into and adjusted

11 Let the tributes from Jaipore and Jodhpore continue to be collected as they were in the time of our ancestors You (Sindhia) will not create any disturbance in the country of Jaipore nor shall Holkar interfere in the country of Marwar (Jodhpur) Let these clever propositions be well considered and answer sent to them

Letter No 12—This is an enclosure to the letter addressed to the Governor-General by Mercer under date 15th January Mercer reports that the troops of Sindhia were clamouring for pay and keeping him virtually in a sort of personal confinement Sindhia's revenue had dwindled to 70 lacs from a crore and a half. Since Holkar claims half of Sindhia's gain in Bhopal, Sindhia has proposed that Seoni and Hoshangabad

might go to the Bhonsla, he himself should have Islamnagar and have six lacs and the rest of the country to be retained by the Nawab Vazir Mohammed Khan. The troops of Nana Sahib had come very near Sindhia's Camp in order to conduct a joint operation for the occupation of Chanderi by Nana Sahib to which Sindhia had agreed

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Camp on the bank of the Dussan river the 13th January 1808
SIR,

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has made no movement since my address to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo

2 He has been principally employed in making up sum for the payment of his troops which however I understand, is not nearly completed to the amount required and he is consequently daily held in a sort of personal confinement by their clamours. This mode of enforcing payment of their demands called Dharma used formerly to be exercised by the Sardars upon the ministers only and the Maharaja's person was held inviolable but since the succession of Anna Sicea Navis from the Durbar their remains no person of sufficient responsibility and influence from whose confinement the Sardars could reasonably expect to gain their objects in this measure

3 The difficulties under which His Highness labours in the payment of his troops are not likely to be removed effectually by the petty exactions which he may be enabled to make in this quarter and still less by any increase of resources from his possessions. The estimated product of the whole of his countries for the current year lately delivered to the Maharaja by the revenue officers of the Durbar amounted only to seventy lacs of rupees. When His Highness expressed his surprise at this rapid decrease in the revenues of countries which were nominally valued at a crore and a half of rupees he was answered that owing to the several provinces having been so repeatedly plundered either by his own troops or those of Holkar few of them produced half the revenue they were capable of and that a further decrease might be expected from a continuance of the same causes and from the instability of the Aumils.

4. The propositions of Holkar remain still unanswered although Holkar continues to urge the ratification of them and has positively declared that he will enforce his claim to a share in the conquests Sindhia is making in the Bhopal country in conformity to the ancient contract of their families. This measure it is said has had much weight in occasioning a serious charge in Sindhia's views in respect to this country and that he is now with some degree of sincerity negotiating with Vazir Mohammed Khan the manager of Bhopal on the following terms that Hoshangabad and

Seoni to the south ward of the Nerbudda River should remain in the possession of the Nagpur Rajah, that he himself should retain the fort of Islamnagar, and that the remainder of the Bhopal country should be continued in the hands of Vazir Mohammed Khan on his paying a sum of money which is stated to be six lacs of rupees. The payment of this amount however will not without much difficulty be obtained from Vazir Mohammed Khan.

5 The troops of Nana Sahib stated by the late dispatches of Mr Jenkins to your Lordship to have marched towards this quarter have arrived within a few marches of this camp. Their object is to support an engagement entered into by Sindhia through Vinkoji Pidree the Nana's agent to put Nana Sahib in possession of the small state of Chanderi on the borders of Bundelkhand, at present in a state of confusion and anarchy for the sum of five lacs of rupees a great part of which has, I understand, been paid. No measures have however been as yet taken by Sindhia to fulfil this engagement, nor has any Sardar been appointed on his part to co-operate with Nana Sahib's troops. The only step which has been taken as far as I can learn with a view to this arrangement has been a demand from Sindhia upon the Chanderi Rajah of five lacs of rupees on account of his having on a former occasion, it is asserted, joined Karim Khan Pindarra in plundering some parts of Sindhia's country. Upon this demand, which the Raja I fancy, has not the means of complying with, the attack of his country will probably be grounded.

Letter No 13—Mercer reports the discussions he had with Sindhia and his ministers regarding the Saranjamy lands, the lands of Vinchoor Jagirdar, etc. He refused to take an active interest in the matter of Pratinidhi of the Peshwa because the Pratinidhi happened to be his friend. The disputes between Jaipur and Jodhpur had been going on for some time. Jaipur Rajah supported the claim of Dhokul Singh for Jaipur. The treacherous murder of Dhokul Singh's agents in the Camp of Meer Khan had ended in the occupation of Nagore by Meer Khan.

FROM—G MERCER, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-
GENERAL

The 18th April 1808

MY LORD,

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 2nd instant

2. The Durbar having found means by a partial payment to some of the Sirdars to relieve the Maharaja from the state of restraint in which he had been by the troops I was enabled to pay my visit to Baboo Rao Angria on the 9th instant accompanied by the gentlemen attached to the Residency I was received with much civility and attention and after receiving the usual presents before taking leave, Baboo Rao expressed his gratitude to the British Government for the friendly assistance given to him in the affairs of Colabah and his hopes that this friendship would be continued to him I replied that the Government would be always well disposed to show him acts of friendship both on his own account and from the relation in which he stood to the Peshwa and Maharaja Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

3. On the 6th I also took the first opportunity that offered of waiting upon the Maharajah at the Durbar After some general conversation I acquainted Sindhia with the complaints that had been made by the Court of Poona respecting His Highness's unauthorized demands on the Saranjamy lands of the Poona state in Malwa and communicated the appeal which had been made to your Lordship's mediation under the treaties of Bassien and Serjanganjaon to support the rights of the Peshwah which had been violated by those demands I said that your Lordship was confident that His Highness would see the great impropriety of these proceedings and the necessity there was of satisfying those who had already paid money on these demands as well as of abstaining from all such requisitions in future.

4. After some consultation between the Maharajah Baboo Rao Angria Gopal Rao Bhow and Anna Siccanaves Gopal Rao replied on the part of His Highness that it was not the Maharajah's intention to attempt to justify the demands that had been made upon the persons holding Saranjamy lands on the part of the Peshwah but that on his wresting the pergunnahs which belonged to the Vinchore Jaghirdar and Rajah Bahadur from the Pindaries and delivering them over to these Chiefs they had willingly paid him a Nazaranah that in the second year no demand had been made on the Vinchore man for these pergunnahs but that a sum had been received from him on the promise of the Maharajah to put him in possession of certain lands in the Gwalior country including the pergunnah of Aonchar as the Maharajah must be at considerable expenses in reducing some of the places in the hands of the Zamundars particularly the Fort of Beeturwar that a sum had been taken from Rajah Bahadur on account of old balances upon account between him and Sindhia's Government that the pergunnah of Nyasera Kalubagh and Malhargarh had been taken from Mohammed Shah Khan who commanded Meer Khan's Brigade and delivered over to the Aodekur in consequence of which he had also paid a Nazrana that the Maharajah's troops had been employed in settling several refractory Zamundaries in the Serinjamy of the

Neohgaumkur, and that the pergunnah of Shajanpoor had been also taken from Karim Khan and delivered to the Powar who had paid something in compensation. The principal cause, however, of these demands Gopal Rao added had been the extreme distress of the Maharajah's troops from want of pay, and that they would not be recurred. I replied that it was further necessary that some means should be used to satisfy those by whom the money had been paid and that in reference to what Gopal Rao Bhau had said I had been also instructed to represent to His Highness the undoubted right which the Vinchore Jagirdar appeared to have to the pergunnah of Aonchar and to get from His Highness the necessary orders for the delivery of it. Anna Siccanavis said that the necessary orders had been already delivered to the Vinchore Vakeel who would also receive the collections from the Pergunnah from the date of the order should any delay take place in his getting possession in lieu of money he had paid and that the Maharaja would do everything in his power to settle these matters to my satisfactions as it was equally his wish to please the Peshwa and the British Government. No notice was taken in the course of this conversation of any claim Sindhia might have upon these people from his having been engaged in the business of the Poona state, as stated in his letter.

5 His Highness then said that he had been earnestly solicited by the friends of Prati Nidhi's a relation of the Peshwa's and who had fallen under the Peshwa's displeasure to intercede in his favour and to interest the British Government also in his belief. That he had himself written to the Peshwah on the subject and that he wished me to write to the Resident at Poona to solicit his good offices in favour of Phirtee Nidhi. I replied that this was a business in which I could no measure interfere, that I knew that applications had been made from various quarters in favour of Phirtee Niddee, and that the British Resident had not appeared to have interfered in the matter and that I could not recommend a business of this nature to his attention. His Highness asked if I could mention the subject to your Lordship. I answered that it was my duty to report to your Lordship any conversation of the nature which now took place with His Highness, but that I could not give him the slightest hopes that your Lordship would be inclined to interfere in it as His Highness must be well aware of the principle to which it was your Lordship's resolution to adhere, nor to interfere in the internal concerns of any state in friendship with the Government. Nothing more was said on this subject and I soon after took my leave.

6 I shall send for such of the Vakeels as may be now in Camp of the parties holding seranjamy lands from the Poona state in this quarter and shall have the honour in a future dispatch to submit to your Lordship the result of my conference with them and of any further communications which it may be necessary to make to the Durbar towards a final adjustment of the subject.

7 The contest between the Rajahs of Jaipore and Jodhpore as far as regards the support given by the former to the claims of Dhokul Singh for the Raja of Jodhpore, appears to have been concluded for the present by a most horrid act of treachery on the part of Meer Khan Seway Singh the manager of Dhokul Singh's affairs after a considerable time spent in negotiations with Meer Khan for his retiring from Nagore, had under the most solemn oaths and assurances of friendship and safety visited Meer Khan in his Camp attended by the principals Thakours and Sirdars who were adherents of Dhokul Singh. The whole party was surrounded and murdered in Meer Khan's tent. Meer Khan had in consequence obtained possession of Nagore but the persons of Dhokul Singh had been previously carried off by his attendants and he has arrived in safety in the Bikaner Country.

8 Serjee Rao Ghatgay had joined with his party the Brigade under Heera Singh in the Mewar country and had fallen in with the force under Ambajee near Chitore. Ambajee attacked Serjee Rao's party and defeated it and Serjee Rao himself fled towards Jawud. No material impression however appears to have been made on the Brigade which was retiring from the Mewar country but as both Serjee Rao and Heera Singh had offered their services to Holkar orders have been sent from this Durbar to all Sindhia's officers in that quarter to assist Ambajee and to attack Serjee Rao and Heera Singh should they attempt to join Holkar without any apprehension from the near relation in which the former stood to the Maharajah.

Letter No 14.—Mercer handed over the charge of the Residency to Elphinstone on 29th May 1808

FROM—G MFR CER RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp the 29th May 1808

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day delivered over charge of this Residency to the Hon'ble Mr Elphinstone.

Letter No 15.—This is an enclosure to Elphinstone's letter to Jenkins dated 29th May. He reports to the Governor General on the basis of Akhbars that Mahipat Ram had arrived in the Camp of Holkar who had given him a civil reception.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Sindhia's camp on the bank of the Betwa river the 29th May 1808.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I arrived in this Camp on the 22nd instant. Dowlat Rao Sindhia was prevented seeing me till yesterday by a disturbance among his troops.

I had yesterday the honour to attend the Durbar and presented your Lordship's letter to the Maharajah. No conversation took place at this meeting.

The Army marched here four days ago and it was understood that it would canton here during the rains. It is now reported that the Maharajah will march tomorrow in a westerly direction but I have no information regarding his ultimate object.

The last Akhbars from Holkar's Army dated the 18th instant mention Mahipat Ram's having arrived in the camp of that Chieftain slightly attended. Holkar had given him a civil reception though he seemed desirous to avoid the meeting.

Letter No 16—This day Elphinstone handed over to Lt R Close as Resident with Sindhia and proceeded to Delhi.

FROM—M ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT
RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-
GENERAL

Camp at Thana, the 11th July 1808.

I have the honour to acquaint you that I have received orders to proceed immediately to Delhi. I have accordingly this day delivered over charge of this Residency to Lieutenant Close who has been appointed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to that duty.

Letter No 17—This is an enclosure to Elphinstone's letter to Colonel Close dated the 16th July. Elphinstone reports that the troops of the Sindhia were mutinous owing to arrears of pay and some had deserted him. The Prime Minister Babuji Angaria could not manage the affairs very well. The ministers were quarrelling among themselves. The agents of Sindhia had interfered in the affairs of the Rajput states of Jaipur and Jodhpur. "Holkar has no Maratha army and his regulars are probably as yet inferior to Sindhia's." His army in co-operation with the Bhonsla's was fully successful but at the end Vazir Mohammed Khan the Manager of Bhopal, called in the Pindaries, forced the Marathas to retreat, and recovered portions of the lost territory. The

Governor-General is reminded of the Sindhia's request that he (G G) might intercede on behalf of the Pratinidhi with the Peshwa

FROM—M ELPHINSTONE RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL

The 5th July 1808

When I had last the honour to address your Lordship Dowlat Rao Sindhia had just been free from restraint under which he was put by some troops that mutinied for pay. The removal of the troops was effected by His Highness's calling up some of his regular Battalions for the protection of his tents but such was the discontent created by this measure that the whole of the mutineers immediately quitted the camp with the avowed intention of returning to the Deccan and leaving his service for ever. They amounted to be about three thousand Horse the greater part of them consisted of a plundering Corps called the Barra Bye who only differ from Pindaries in their receiving regular pay they still remain near the Betwa whence they send out parties and plunder the country in all directions a negotiation for their return has been on foot ever since they left the camp Sindhia has not yet been able to satisfy them but as they have not marched to the Deccan it is probable they will be prevailed on to rejoin the army

After the separation of this party some other Maratha Chiefs became clamorous for their arrears and no satisfaction being given them they proceeded to prevent the Maharajah quitting his tents for even eating the conduct of the principal of them Bhagwant Rao Byse was such as greatly to exasperate Sindhia who ordered a considerable payment to be made them immediately and at the same time desired some Battalions of Infantry and some Cavalry to march against them. Bhagwant Rao Byse prepared to resist the force that was sent against him and gave out that he believed he had more partisans in the camp than Sindhia. This state of things excited much alarm in camp all the shops were shut and troops were posted to protect the bazars and Sindhia's tent. At last the mutineers marched off for the Deccan without any attempt being made to molest them. They had endeavoured to prevail on the Chiefs of the party which formerly separated to join them in resisting Sindhia but those Chiefs refused to join alleging that Bhagwant Rao had received his pay separately and had no common cause with those who had received nothing

The distress and consequently the mutinous spirit of the troops is greatly increased by the present state of the ministry. Angria who is the nominal prime minister is quite inexperienced in the affairs of this Government. He is not known to the troops and has neither credit among the bankers nor funds of his own.

He is also extremely distrusted by the old ministers who are accused with great appearance of truth of augmenting the distresses of the Army on purpose to increase Angria's embarrassments. They are led to this not only by their desire to recover the direction of affairs, but by the fear that if Angria should be firmly established in office he would put in execution the plans of extorting money from the ministers which he formerly proposed to the Maharajah. Sindhia is very desirous to bring about a cordial co-operation between his uncle and his old ministers but his exertions have failed entirely and they may all be considered as decidedly hostile to Angria except Gopal Rao Bhow who appears to have attached himself to present Minister's party. Angria is himself greatly distressed for money, he has long since exhausted all his resources and mortgaged his patrimony of Colaba and he has incurred fresh expenses by bringing a large body of troops with him. They are now much in arrears and are very clamorous for their money. Many of them have quitted him and 300 of them went off with Bhagwant Rao Byse.

Ambajee's influence is at present very low, he has greatly displeased the Maharajah by declining to comply with His Highness's demands for money and by his want of co-operation with Bappoo Sindhia. It seems to be Sindhia's intention to deprive Ambajee of all the countries now under him except Nurwar. Sunnuds for the management of Mewar are said to have been already sold to Bappoo Sindhia for 3½ lacs of rupees. Ambajee was lately joined by his brother Bala Rao after which he again attacked Serjee Rao Ghatka and Heera Singh but received a severe check. After this success Serjee Rao proceeded to the Jaipore frontier and joined the army under Bappoo Sindhia.

Bappoo Sindhia entered the Jaipore territory about the end of May but was forced by the threats of Holkar and perhaps by the strength of the Jaipore army to retire into Ajmer. About the middle of last month Bappoo Sindhia again entered Jaipore and being reinforced by Serjee Rao, Heera Singh engaged the Jaipore Army under Roy Chand Singh. The action is said to have been well contested. It was chiefly maintained on Sindhia's side by Baptiste and the regular Infantry. Heera Singh Commandant was killed in the battle. Chand Singh was entirely defeated with the loss of all his guns, baggage and bazars. Chand Singh with some of his troops retired into Tora where he is besieged by Bappoo Sindhia the rest of the Army dispersed and retired towards the capital.

After the victory a dispute arose between Bappoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao about the division of the plunder, it terminated in Serjee Rao's separating from the Army with twelve of the captured guns.

The accounts of this victory reached Sindhia on the 2nd of this month, he had made one march from the Baitwa and was understood to intend halting some time near Cutchnare Seraee for the purpose of enforcing his hitherto unsuccessful demands on the

Raggogur country Since he received intelligence of Bappoo Sindhia's success he has made four marches to this place and he professes an intention of continuing his march to Soopoor near the Chumbul.

The levity and want of system which characterize the court render it uncertain whether this intention will be adhered to though it is obvious that nothing but such a step properly followed up can enable Sindhia to profit by his recent success and to recover his influence among the Rajput states The Rajah of Jaipore though defeated is far from being subdued he is busied in preparing for the defence of his capital and at the same time in assembling an army to meet the Maratta in the field, he has called on the Shekoottee Chiefs and his other allies and dependants to assist him and has applied for aid to Meer Khan and Holkar Meer Khan has delivered over Nagore to Rajah Man Singh he has defeated the son of Sewaee Singh who lately returned with a force from Bikaner and has marched in the direction of Jaipore leaving about 3000 horse and foot to assist the Jodhpore Rajah. Holkar will no doubt renew his threats and they together with the arrival of Meer Khan and the separation of Serjee Rao will probably intimidate Bappoo Sindhia and prevent his further progress.

Sindhia's march to the Chumbul would place him within reach to reinforce Bappoo Sindhia if Meer Khan joined the Jaipore Rajah It would probably prevent Holkar's interference in the affairs of Jaipore or if it did not it would afford a good opportunity of deciding the disputes between the two states by an appeal to arms.

Holkar has some time since discharged all his Maratha horse and occupied himself entirely in casting guns in training regular troops and cavalry and in arranging his finances In this he has acted wisely for though the regular troops and artillery are the weakest part of a native army when opposed to us it is by those branches alone that all battles among themselves are decided. I do not know what progress Holkar is making in the points to which he has turned his attention but from his known talents and activity I conclude that he is improving and that if he has time he will excite all the other native powers.

On the other hand Sindhia's power has for a long time been on the decline. Every year takes something from his resources, his military power and his influence among foreign states. So that unless some change takes place in the conduct of one or other of the two Durbars or in the general state of India, Sindhia may be expected in the course of a few years to fall without a struggle into Holkar's hands

It is not probable that Sindhia will ever have a better opportunity than the present of effecting a change in his favour He has a considerable advantage in his late victory Holkar has no Maratha army and his regulars are probably as yet inferior to Sindhia's.

His conduct in the late disputes between Jodhpore and Jaipore has lowered his character among the Rajpoots Meer Khan seems at present to have separated his interests from those of Jeswant Rao and the rebellion of Dadu Khan who has seized the greater part of his possessions in the Deccan place Holkar in a situation in which nothing but the superiority of his personal character could give him a prospect of maintaining of himself against Sindhia, should the latter conduct himself according to the plainest dictates of commonsense

Should Sindhia move towards the Chumbul he intends to profit from his situation by levying money on Soopoor and the neighbouring country, by obliging Ambajee's Managers to give up Bubbulgaik and by intimidating Ambajee's brother Khandojee the Amil of Nurwai and forcing him to pay a large sum of money to the Government

Sindhia has left some troops to assist the Rajah of Berar in the conquest of Bhopal the combined force of those chiefs had at most entirely subdued the country, when the manager Vizeer Mohammed Khan called in the Pindaries, forced the Marathas to retreat and made considerable progress in recovering the country Sindhia's troops with the Rajah of Berar's Army are few, they are illpaid and mutinous, it is not improbable that the failure of this joint attack may show the Rajah of Berar that his chance of success would be much greater if he would lay out the large subsidies he gives to this Government in paying his own troops

Some time after I last wrote to your Lordship, Sindhia returned my visit and made the usual presents I have since accompanied him once on a hunting party and waited on him once at his tent On the last occasion after some common conversation His Highness asked me what I thought of Holkar's conduct with respect to Mahipat Ram and what Holkar had replied to your Lordship's request that he might be delivered up I said that I had not heard what Holkar's answer was but that I conjectured he would find pretences for retaining Mahipat Ram till he could get all his money from him and would then either dismiss him or deliver him up

His Highness then began a very long discussion respecting the commutation of Raja Baye's Jageer I shall not take up your Lordship's time with the details as every argument that had been brought forward from the time when Mr Mercer first introduced the subject was renewed and insisted on, Sindhia spoke a good deal himself He insisted on his right to three lacks of cash in lieu of three lacks of Jageer, contested our right to introduce the regulations in the Jagirs and endeavoured to represent the commutation as a concession on his part The ministers talked much of the inconvenience the Government was put to by the delay in fixing the sum they were to receive which they said prevented the Bankers advancing money on the Jageers for the present Hindoo year and concluded by desiring that I would promise either to produce a decision on the amount to be paid in 25 days or to agree at the

end of that period to the Maharajah's demand for three lacks in cash. This I positively refused and the affair remained unsettled as before.

Letter No 18—This forms the enclosure to Close's letter to Jenkins dated 22nd August. In the enclosure Close reports that no accommodation had been effected between the Rajahs of Jaipur and Jodhpur and that the troops of Sindhia and Serjee Rao as also of Meer Khan had been operating in Jaipur territory. There was no amity subsisting between Bappoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao Ghatgay. Owing to the most deplorable financial condition of Sindhia's Government it had been proposed that the Government should be managed by the Sindhia himself Babooji Angria Annaji and Bapoo Chitnis. Karim and Chitoo Chiefs of the Pindaries who had been treacherously seized some time back had been imprisoned by Sindhia and sent to the fort of Gwallior under confinement.

FROM—R. CLOS. RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—THE RIGHT HON. BLF. LORD MINTO GOVERNOR
GENERAL.

Camp near Shahabad the 20th August 1808

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 2nd instant since which period no step has been taken by Dowlat Rao Sindhia to enable Bapoo Sindhia and Serjee Rao more effectually to enforce their demands on the Rajah of Jaipur. Notwithstanding the powerful motives by which it might be supposed that Sindhia would be influenced arising from the negotiations and near approach to Jaipore of Meer Khan with a considerable force, the favourable disposition of Rajah Man Singh of Jodhpore who has however expresses a doubt of Sindhia's sincerity which can only be removed by his advance and the earnest solicitation of his own officers in the Jaipore territory who represent in strong terms the beneficial effects which such a movement would produce.

A principal reason for this delay I imagine to be, the apprehension that Holkar would by Sindhia's advance be led to take part in the dispute as although the present reduced state of that Chief's strength appears to be well known the vigor and energy of his character is also duly appreciated.

Sindhia's anxiety on this head as well as regarding Holkar encouragement of Meer Khan is evinced by his holding out to him hopes of his ratification. Of the treaty proposed by Holkar and communicated to your Lordship in Mr Mercer's dispatch of the 11th December last year promises have been made that Ram Chand Appa, the Vakeel to whom Holkar delivered that Treaty shall be sent with it as soon as possible and for the purpose of adjusting all differences between the two Durbars.

A course of alarm to the present ministers may likewise be drawn from the prospect which a movement towards Jaipore would open of Serjee Rao's being thus enabled to join this army or at least of establishing his influence in Sindhia's council. In other respects the present period appears favourable as the clamours of the troops have been silenced by a late discharge of some of their arrears but which in the course of a few months, it is probable, will again break out. Advantage is taken of the latter circumstance to select a body of troops under the command of Appa Khandia which, it is given out, he detached to the southward for the purpose of opposing Vazir Mohammed Khan who after plundering the districts of Ashtee and Sujalpore, went up Bhopal, has lately carried his depredations into the Radgur district. The fort of that name was taken possession of by this army towards the end of 1807, but appears to have been left in a weak state of defence on Sindhia's marching from that part of the country.

This detachment is now collecting at a short distance from the army, and its march is said to have been retarded only by the festival of the Janmashtami, the celebration of which is now nearly concluded.

The same spirit of disunion which I in a former dispatch stated to your Lordship, continues to actuate the different officers in command of the army in Jaipore. Letters daily arrive from Serjee Rao Ghatgay and Bapoo Sindhia accusing each other as the cause of their necessities and the slow progress of the war in which they are engaged. Serjee Rao has been compelled by desertions from his army and other difficulties to retire from his advanced position to the borders of Ajmer. Bappoo Sindhia after levying a contribution of 80,000 rupees on Bejaywar left that fort and proceeded to Nowaee which he has taken, he is now occupied in the siege of Iellayurn.

The Jaipore Durbar is not dismayed but I do not hear of any force being sent to oppose the advance of Sindhia's army. Troops have been assembled and measures have been taken to render the infantry efficient by supplying it with guns and ammunition.

Meer Khan has approached to Sambre and was said to have intended entering Jaipore with a small party, but was diverted from this design by his apprehension that he might meet with a similar reception to that which he had before given to Siwaae Singh. He has therefore continued with his army and is negotiating for money with Rajah Jugget Singh, who has sent him a lac of rupees from Jaipore but is reluctant to advance anything further till he is fully convinced of Meer Khan's disposition to render him assistance. Meer Khan in the meantime keeps on terms with all parties, he tells the Jaipore Rajah to depend on his co-operation, he writes to Bapoo Sindhia at one time to leave the Jaipore country and that he will arrange a settlement of his just demands and at another that he will join with him in obliging Rajah Jugget Singh to pay tribute, he assures Holkar also of his fidelity and Sindhia of his attachment.

The supposition appears consistent with this artful conduct that his ultimate object is not to retard Sindhia's operations unless in as far as it may be found requisite to enable him to procure from the Jaipore Rajah a considerable payment. Sindhia continues to be importuned on the subject of Serjee Rao's recall. His Highness however expressed his conviction that the only means to remedy the inefficiency and weakness of his Government and to augment his authority and influence would be the administration of his affairs by himself. Angria his uncle Annajee and Bapoo Chitnavis. They all at His Highness's desire assembled in his tent at a time appointed on the 13th instant and there entered into an engagement that they would unite in their exertions to support the dignity and power of his Government. There is however little reason to imagine there was much sincerity in this proceeding. Angria from his want of resources feels his weakness and is desirous to establish his influence and ascendancy through the assistance of Serjee Rao who is in close correspondence with him. The sole conduct of affairs remains as usual vested in the hands of Annajee the only person who has credit sufficient to support the expenses of the Government.

A few only of the Bara Byes have as yet been prevailed on to rejoin this army. I understand an offer of employment has lately been made to them by Holkar who is also about to retain in his service two separate detachments that have left this camp one of which is commanded by Bugwant Rao Bye. A remonstrance has been made by this Durbar on the impropriety of his thus encouraging the desertion of the troops.

Karim and Cheetoo Chiefs of the two principal bodies of Pindaries and who were some time ago treacherously seized and imprisoned by Sindhia have lately been sent under confinement to the fort of Gwalior to obviate all danger from their intrigues in this Camp.

Nothing further has transpired since the 14th instant respecting the communications which I had the honour to make for your Lordship's information to the Secretary in the Political Department.

Letter No 19—Close reports the continuance of disturbed condition of Rajput states quarrels between the Sardars of the Sindhia operating in Rajputana, the designs of Holkar to participate in the Rajputana affairs and claim parts of Raghogarh territory and Wazir Mohammed Khan's efforts to detach Sindhia from Bhonsla in their designs on Bhopal.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL.

(An enclosure to his letter to Jenkins, dated 17th September 1808).
I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 20th ultimo

Little progress has since been made by the Government in the war in which it is engaged and Bapoojee Sindhia is at present the only Sirdar employed in conducting it

In a former dispatch I stated that Serjee Rao had separated from Sindhia's Army and retired to the borders of the province of Ajmer, he there commenced plundering Balla Rao Ingolia's territory, which obliged the latter to march out to oppose him, the two armies were encamped in presence of each other for a few days during which some skirmishes took place unattended with any decisive effect

At length, however, they moved out to engage, the consequence of which was Balla Rao's retiring to Ajmer, he was pursued by Serjee Rao, who at this time wrote to Sindhia in confidence of his being enabled to exact a contribution when he stated it as his intention to rejoin Bapoo Sindhia

Shortly after however Balla Rao Ingolia again moved out against him with a body of horse and forced him to retreat to the vicinity of Kishangarh Ghatgay has on different occasions written to Sindhia excusing himself on account of his necessities for deserting Bapoo Sindhia and praying for relief No displeasure seems to have been expressed by Sindhia but on the contrary he has been encouraged to hope for assistance and as a token of Sindhia's regard a dress of honour with present have been sent to him

Baptiste likewise set out some time ago from Bapoo Sindhia's Camp to return to this army accompanied by Gomaji, brother of Bapoo Sindhia, he is accompanied only by a few hundred horse and is expected in this Camp in a very few days

When accounts of his intention first arrived, it did not meet with the approbation of the Ministers here, it was afterwards said that he was charged with proposals from Jaipore and orders were sent to him to proceed with expedition

Vakeels had been deputed to him by Rajah Jugget Singh while he continued with the Army to the northward, but negotiations do not appear to have been entered into by him

Meer Khan is stated to continue his demands for money on the Rajah of Jaipore, not satisfied by the offers that have been made to him and which have been liberal

The Rajah now perfectly sensible that he cannot expect assistance from Meer Khan is anxious to prevail on him to leave his dominions for which purpose these offers have been made to him

This circumstance probably contributed to a proposal which has been made by Rajah Jugget Singh to Zalim Singh Manager of Herowtee on the Cota country that he should assume the office of mediator and use his endeavours to bring his difference with Dowlat Rao Sindhia to an amicable settlement